Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-96-117
Monday
17 June 1996

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Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-96-117 *17 June 1996*

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Russia: Yeltsin, Zyuganov Hold 'Comfortable Lead'

LD1606193696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1933 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 16 (Itar-Tass) — Incumbent president Boris Yeltsin and Communist hopeful Gennadiy Zyuganov are holding a comfortable lead over other eight candidates in the race for presidency, according to preliminary results of Sunday's vote in some of Russia's eastern regions, presenting seven percent of Russia's electorate.

According to data, released by the Central Election Commission, Yeltin leads with 32.3 percent of the votes, closely followed by Zyuganov with 29.14 percent.

Law-and-order general Aleksandr Lebed runs definitely third with 15.87 percent.

Ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and liberal economist Grigoriy Yavlivskiy have 9.55 and 8.42 percent of the votes respectively.

Other candidates are far behind.

Russia: Latest Election Update Gives Yeltsin 34.8%, Zyuganov 32.31%

LD1706092596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0909 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 17 (Interfax) — According to information obtained by the Central Electoral Commission as of noon, Moscow time, 34.80 percent of people voted for the current Russian president Boris Yeltsin at the presidential elections on June 16. He is followed by Gennadiy Zyuganov with 32.31 percent, Aleksandr Lebed 14.38 percent, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy 7.42 percent and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy 5.97 percent.

Around 65 million ballot papers (89 percent) have been counted.

Russia: Analyst Says Yeltsin 1-1.5 Million Votes Ahead of Zyuganov

LD1706111296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1052 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 17 (Interfax) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin's supporters outnumber those of his Communist rival Gennadiy Zyuganov by a margin of 1 million to 1.5 million, Dmitriy Oreshkin, chief analyst of the Federal Information Center of the Central Electoral Commission, told a briefing in Moscow.

In Moscow the difference in favor of Yeltsin was 750,000, in the Moscow region 203,000, in St. Petersburg 710,000, in the Perm region 275,000 and in the Sverdlovsk region 775,000 votes, he said.

Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov won the Altay territory by a margin of 250,000 votes, the Krasnodar region by a margin of 275,000, in the Stavropol territory by 250,000, and the Kemerovo region by 270,000, Oreshkin said. Zyuganov won more votes than Yeltsin in numerous other regions but with a slighter margin, he said.

The gap between Yeltsin and Zyuganov which is now in the 2 to 3 percent range is very likely to narrow to about 2 percent towards the end of the day, Oreshkin said.

Aleksandr Ivanchenko, deputy chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, reported final results of the voting in numerous regions which have sent full reports.

In particular, Yeltsin won 43 percent, Zyuganov 17 percent and Lebed 12 percent of the total in the Russian internal republic of Karelia.

Zyuganov won 51 percent, Yeltsin 24 percent and Aleksandr Lebed 11 percent in the republic of Mordovia.

Zyuganov won 63 percent, Yeltsin 19 percent and Lebed 9 percent in North Ossetia.

Yeltsin got 29 percent against Zyuganov's 24 percent in Maritime territory.

With 37 percent voting for him Yeltsin was ahead of Lebed, 24 percent, and Zyuganov, 16 percent in the Magadan region.

Zyuganov with 35 percent was well ahead of Yeltsin, 25 percent, and Lebed, 10 percent, in Novosibirsk region.

The Central Electoral Commission will have the results from all the polling stations connected to the Vyboriy information system before the end of the day and will start receiving official reports on the elections results from regional and republican electoral commissions, Ivanchenko said.

Russia: Regional Update on Returns of Three Election Front-Runners

LD1706091396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0839 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 17 (Itar-Tass) — Follows the regional breakdown of Russian election returns as of Monday morning for the three front runners — Yeltsin, Zyuganov, Lebed (adds new regions, includes earlier data for a number of regions, where no fresh updates were made available at 11:00 Moscow time).

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TOMSK REGION	
Yeltsin	35.7
Zyuganov	21.97
Lebed	19.7
In Tomsk city, Yeltsin came first, followed by Lebed, with Zyuganov bringing in the rear among the three front runners.	
UDMURTIA	
Yeltsin	36.80
Zyuganov	30.47
Lebed	11.52
ORENBURG REGION	
Zyuganov	42.13
Yeltsin	25.96
Lebed	13.62
BELGOROD REGION	
Zyuganov	46.35
Yeltsin	22.87
Lebed	16.96
VLADIMIR REGION	
Yeltsin	30.89
Zyuganov	29.87
Lebed	19.91
KRASNODAR TERRITORY	
Zyuganov	39.44
Yeltsin	26.26
Lebed	17.49
ROSTOV REGION	
Zyuganov	33.58
Yeltsin	29.58
Lebed	20.00
RYAZAN REGION	
Zyuganov	40.07
Yeltsin	24.70
Lebed	19.81
TAMBOV REGION	
Zyuganov	52.25
Yeltsin	20.90
Lebed	11.70

ALTAY TERRITORY	
Zyuganov	41.97
Yeltsin	21.80
Lebed	19.38
TULA REGION	
Yeltsin	30.36
Zyuganov	29.30
Lebed	24.49
ULYANOVSK REGION	
Zyuganov	47.70
Yeltsin	24.20
Lebed	12.60
KALININGRAD REGION	
Yeltsin	33.46
Zyuganov	23.08
Lebed	19.31
REPUBLIC OF TUVA	
Yeltsin	59.37
Zyuganov	20.98
Lebed	4.87
IVANOVO REGION	
Yeltsin	29.99
Lebed	29.97
Zyuganov	23.53
SMOLENSK REGION	
Zyuganov	44.57
Yeltsin	21.98
Lebed	15.92
KARACHAYEVO-CHERKESSIA — votes counted in four districts, 23.7 percent of all registered voters in the republic	
Zyuganov	59.5
Yeltsin	24.6
Lebed	6.8
STAVROPOL TERRITORY — 98 percent of votes counted	
Zyuganov	43.92
Yeltsin	21.99
Lebed	19.41
LIPETSK REGION	

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Zyuganov	46.37
Yeltsin	25.08
Lebed	13.6
SVERDLOVSK REGION	
Yeltsin	58.98
Lebed	14.36
Zyuganov	11.80
CHELYABINSK REGION	
Yeltsin	36.6
Zyuganov	24.7
Lebed	19.8
ARKHANGELSK REGION	
Yeltsin	41.9
Lebed	17.6
Zyuganov	16.7
NOVOSIBIRSK REGION	
Zyuganov	34.94
Yeltsin	25.62
PENZA REGION	
Zyuganov	50.6
Yeltsin	20.81
Lebed	12.06
TATARSTAN	
Zyuganov	46.9
Yeltsin	29.89
Lebed	7.2
KURSK REGION	
Zyuganov	50.6
Yeltsin	24.3
Lebed	11.2
OREL REGION	
Zyuganov	50.0
Yeltsin	25.0
Lebed	10.0
BRYANSK REGION	
Zyuganov	47.91
Yeltsin	26.11
Lebed	11.49
TVER REGION	
Zyuganov	33.64
Yeltsin	32.09
Lebed	17.12
REPUBLIC OF CHUVASHIA	
Zyuganov	54.2
Yeltsin	20.4
Lebed	7.5
KURGAN REGION	
Zyuganov	38.0
Yeltsin	29.7
Lebed	11.3
VOLGOGRAD REGION	
Zyuganov	40.0
Yeltsin	28.6
Lebed	13.6
ASTRAKHAN REGION	
Zyuganov	36.2
Yeltsin	29.5
Lebed	16.4
VORONEZH REGION	
Zyuganov	45.48
Yeltsin	22.65
Lebed	17.46

Russia: Preliminary Results From Kamchatka, Novosibirsk, Kemerovo

LD1706082796 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0700 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Summary] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian on its "Vesti" newscast reports the following preliminary election results in video reports from the regions:

Kamchatka:
Yeltsin - 34 percent
Zyuganov - 17 percent [as heard]
Yavlinskiy - 17.3 percent
Lebed - 14 percent
Novosibirsk Region:

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A total of 69.25 percent of voters took part in the elections.
Zyuganov - 34.94 percent
Yeltsin - 25.62 percent
Kemerovo Region:
Zyuganov - about 39 percent
Yeltsin - 24 percent
Lebed - 16 percent

[video shows Kamchatka Region landscape, a vessel at sea; voting at the Black Sea Fleet; counting of votes; Novosibirsk and Kemerovo street scenes]

Russia: Results From Magadan, Jewish Autonomous Region, Japan

LD1606170796 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1630 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At two closed polling stations in Murmansk about 500 [as heard] people took part in the ballot. The votes were as follows: Boris Yeltsin 35 percent; Aleksandr Lebed 14 percent; Yavlinskiy 14 percent; [Gennadiy] Zyuganov and Zhirinovskiy 7 percent each.

Quite the opposite results have been received from closed polling stations in the Jewish Autonomous Region. Zyuganov, leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, is in the lead with 35 percent; Aleksandr Lebed won 29 percent; Vladimir Zhirinovskiy 16 percent; Boris Yeltsin and Grigoriy Yavlinskiy each received 7 percent.

Our radio station has also learned the results of the voting at the presidential elections for Russian citizens temporarily residing in Japan. According to the votes received, Boris Yeltsin is in the lead — about 58 percent of the overall number of voters; 13 percent of the electorate voted for Grigoriy Yavlinskiy; and about 12 percent for Zyuganov.

Russia: Latest Election Results in Far East Reported

LD1706012496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0113 GMT 17 Jun 96

[By Natalya Panshina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW June 17 (Itar-Tass) — President Boris Yeltsin is leading in three out of four major Far Eastern and Siberian regions of the country, according to the "general geographic picture" of Russian elections.

Experts of the Federal Information centre said on Monday that, according to preliminary results, Yeltsin was ahead of his main rival Gennadiy Zyuganov in the Far East with 34 against 26 per cent.

In Siberia, however, Zyuganov was ahead with 35 per cent while Yeltsin trailed with 28.

Furthermore to the west, in the Urals Yeltsin was again in the lead with 36 per cent against 31 of Zyuganov.

In the Central European region the incumbent president was also ahead of Zyuganov with 36 against 30 per cent.

Still it is to be remembered that the Far East has only six per cent of the population and Siberia — nine. Most Russians, nearly 60 per cent, live in the European part of Russia from where only few results have been available by now.

Russia: Yeltsin Wins in Leningrad Region

LD1706022096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0214 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SAINT PETERSBURG, June 17 (Interfax) — President Boris Yeltsin led all candidates with 37.43 percent of the vote in the Leningrad region as of 5:00 a.m. [0100 GMT] according to the regional electoral commission.

Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov was next with 23.18 percent, followed by retired general Aleksandr Lebed with 18.08 percent, reformist Grigoriy Yavlinskiy with 11.68 percent, ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy with 4.27 percent, Mikhail Gorbachev with 0.62 percent, Martin Shakkum with 0.38 percent, Vladimir Bryntsalov with 0.23 percent, and Yuriy Vlasov with 0.2 percent.

Voter participation was 70.06 percent of those eligible.

Russia: Yeltsin Wins in Udmurtia Republic

LD1706025496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0249 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] IZHEVSK, June 17 (Interfax) — President Boris Yeltsin led all candidates with 36.81 percent of the vote in the internal republic of Udmurtia, the republic's electoral commission told Interfax Monday morning.

Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov was next with 30.47 percent, followed by retired general Aleksandr Lebed with 11.52 percent, reformist Grigoriy Yavlinskiy with 9.23 percent, ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy with 5.99 percent, socialist eye doctor Svyatoslav Fedorov with 0.92 percent, Mikhail Gorbachev with 0.69 percent, Martin Shakkum with 0.41 percent, Yuriy Vlasov with 0.23 percent, and Vladimir Bryntsalov with 0.19 percent.

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A disgruntled 1.99 percent of voters crossed off everyone.

Voter participation was 68.22 percent of those eligible.

Russia: Yeltsin Wins in Nizhniy Novgorod Region

LD1706041396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0400 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NIZHNIY NOVGOROD, June 17 (Interfax) — According to preliminary information from all 2,463 ballot stations in the Nizhniy Novgorod region, Russian President Boris Yeltsin leads with 34.83% of votes, local electoral commission chairman Anatoliy Nekrasov told Interfax Monday.

Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov won 32.53% of votes, retired general Aleksandr Lebed 14.77%, Yabloko party leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy 7.1%, Liberal Democratic Party leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy 5.43% of votes.

The other contenders failed to win even 1% of votes, Nekrasov said.

A total of 1.7% of voters crossed out all the contenders.

The residents of Nizhniy Novgorod, Dzerzhinsk, Kstovo, Arzamas and Balakhna secured Yeltsin's prevalence, Nekrasov said.

The Avtozavodskiy district of Nizhniy Novgorod chiefly populated by the workers of the GAZ car manufacturer proved to be the most anti-Zyuganov, he said.

At the same time, Zyuganov won in virtually all rural areas, Nekrasov said.

Russia: Yeltsin Wins in Irkutsk

LD1606161596 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1535 GMT 16 Jun 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Khodiy]

[FBIS Translated Text] Irkutsk, 16 Jun (Itar-Tass) — According to preliminary data obtained by an ITAR-TASS correspondent from a source in the municipal electoral commission, 40 percent of voters in the city of Irkutsk voted for Russia's current president, Boris Yeltsin.

Gennadiy Zyuganov polled a half of the votes cast for Yeltsin. Aleksandr Lebed and Grigoriy Yavlinskiy have around 15 percent of votes each.

Russia: Yeltsin Receives 48 Percent of Votes in Kurils

LD1606163696 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1601 GMT 16 Jun 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, 16 Jun (Itar-Tass) — Incumbent Russian President Boris Yeltsin, according to preliminary figures, has received the support of 48 percent of Kuril Islanders in the elections.

Aleksandr Lebed received 17 percent of the votes of the electors of the Kurils, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy 13 percent, and Gennadiy Zyuganov 10 percent.

A total of 76 percent of the electors took part in the elections.

Russia: Voting Results in Former Soviet Republics Reported

LD1706083796 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0750 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Summary] ITAR-TASS reports the following results from former Soviet republics (all in percentage points):

Russian citizens and troops in Tajikistan:
Yeltsin - 37.3
Zyuganov - 22.3
Zhirinovskiy - 15.75
Lebed - 15.55

10,000 people voted (95 percent of those on electoral register).

Itar-Tass also gives details on the distribution of the votes: "Gennadiy Sizov, chairman of the electoral commission on the election of the Russian president in Tajikistan, said that according to preliminary reports, servicemen supported Boris Yeltsin, whereas the majority of Russian civilians living in Tajikistan, who voted at polling stations in the Russian Embassy in Dushanbe and in the General Consulate in the town of Khudzhant, administrative center of the Leninabad Region, voted for Gennadiy Zyuganov, with 53.5 percent. Boris Yeltsin came second with 25.03 percent, and Aleksandr Lebed was third with 12.34 percent."

Ashkhabad, (Turkmenistan):
Zyuganov - 36.3 (2,046 voters)
Yeltsin - 35.1 (1,978 voters)
Lebed - 16 (902 voters)
A total of 5,631 people voted.
Bishkek (Kirghizia):

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Yeltsin - 34
Lebed - 30
Zhirinovskiy - 8.1
Yavlinskiy - 5.6
Others - less than 1.
A total of 2,323 people voted.
Tallinn (Estonia):
Zyuganov - 64.99
Lebed - 14.31
Yeltsin - 12.34
Yavlinskiy - 3.37
Zhirinovskiy - 2.54
(results from Narva where 9,302 people voted, have not been announced yet).

Russia: Russians in Estonia Place Zyuganov First, Yeltsin Third

WS1706092396 Tallinn ETA in English 0315 GMT 17 Jun 96

["News Release"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, June 17 (ETA) — Russian citizens in Estonia who cast their ballot at Russian presidential elections on Sunday favoured the Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin, at head in his homeland, stood on the third place.

A total of 23,049 people voted in Estonia, as compared to just 9,000 in Latvia. Three polling stations had been opened in three of the largest cities of Estonia — Tallinn, Tartu and Narva.

12,047 people cast their ballot in Tallinn, 1,700 in Tartu and 9,302 in Narva.

With the votes from Narva not immediately clear, Zyuganov was ahead with 64.9 percent of the votes, followed by Alexander Lebed with 14.2 percent and Boris Yeltsin with 12.34 percent.

The Liberal Yavlinskiy drew 3.37 percent of the votes and Zhirinovskiy lagged behind with 2.54 percent.

The results came up as generally presumed beforehand, though the results of Narva may make differences — in the last elections Zhirinovskiy scored a victory in that almost 100 percent Russian-speaking city.

Russia: Zyuganov Wins 64.5 Percent of Votes in Latvia

WS1706133096 Tallinn BNS in English 1300 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Jun 17, BNS — Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov polled 64.5 of votes of Russian citizens in Latvia, said spokespeople at the Russian Embassy in Riga.

As many as 9,337 Russian citizens voted in the presidential elections Sunday and 6,026 or 64.5 percent supported Zyuganov, said Embassy Third Secretary Dmitry Strokov.

President Boris Yeltsin won 1,374 votes, or 14.7 percent.

About 959 or 10.2 percent voted for retired general Alexander Lebed and 292 or 3.12 percent supported ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

Russia: Zyuganov Receives Over 50 Percent of Votes in Lithuania

WS1706134596 Tallinn BNS in English 1300 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Jun 17, BNS — More than half of the Russian citizens, voting in Lithuania in their country's presidential election, supported the communist party's candidate, Gennadiy Zyuganov.

In polling places in Vilnius, Visaginas and Klaipeda, Zyuganov received more than 50 percent of the ballots.

In second place is the incumbent president Boris Yeltsin who received 17 percent of the votes. Retired general Aleksandr Lebed was in third place with 14 percent. Democrat Grigoriy Yavlinskiy received 5 percent of the ballots, while nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy received only 3 percent.

Aleksandr Antipov, first secretary at the Russian embassy in Vilnius, explained the local Russian citizens' sympathies for the communist leader by their advanced age and nostalgy for "the way of life of a past era."

Roughly 30 percent of the 15 thousand Russian citizens in Lithuania, eligible to vote, participated in the elections.

Vilnius precinct Russian citizens, which includes those living in Visaginas, showed the greatest activity in the elections: 3300 of the 10.5 thousand registered to vote turned out for the polling. This turnout is almost two times greater than that displayed in the Duma elections last December.

A total of about 4.5 thousand Russian citizens voted at the three polling places on Sunday: the Russian embassy in Vilnius, Visaginas and the consulate general in Klaipeda.

According to Antipov, the balloting in Lithuania took place without misunderstandings, with election observers noting no violations.

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Of the roughly 310 thousand Russian nationals living in Lithuania, an absolute majority have Lithuanian citizenship and may not participate in the Russian elections.

Russia: Yeltsin Wins 49 Percent of Russian Votes in Kazakhstan

LD1606202296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2014 GMT 16 Jun 96

[By Vladimir Akimov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ALMATY, June 16 (Itar-Tass) — Preliminary results of voting of the Russian electorate in the Khazakh capital Almaty are 49.57 per cent for Boris Yeltsin and 16.36 per cent for Gennadiy Zyugat.ov.

The vote of Lebed is 13.39 per cent.

These figures have been reported by the election commission based at the Russian Embassy in Almaty.

Russia: Forty Percent of Chechen Voters Cast Ballots for Yeltsin

LD1706074096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0707 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, June 17 (Interfax) — According to preliminary reports from Chechnya, some 40 percent of voters who came to polling stations cast their ballots for President Boris Yeltsin.

Fifty-eight percent of registered voters or about 278,000 persons took part in the elections of the Popular Assembly and almost 60 percent or 300,000 in presidential elections, according to the local electoral commission.

Russia: 'Vesti' Discusses Voter Turnout in Chechnya

LD1606202196 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 16 Jun 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Summary] Russian Television carries a 3-minute report over video by "Vesti" announcer Svetlana Sorokina on the Russian presidential elections in Chechnya. Sorokina quotes Doku Zavgayev, head of the Chechen Republic, who says that more than 50 percent of voters took part in the voting and agrees with an AFP correspondent's assessment of this data as "surrealistic."

"Most Chechens boycotted the elections, and even in Groznyy there were more policemen than voters at the polling stations, FRANCE PRESSE notes, and it is not just foreigners who noticed that," Sorokina says.

The video report shows empty streets and polling stations, some of which have been fired on, according to Sorokina. Opposition rallies have been held in Shali and Avtury and "those taking part in the rallies told us that they were not familiar with any of the candidates and that they have never set eyes on them here," the Sorokina says.

However, the turnout in Urus-Martanovskiy District was "almost 100 percent" and the situation is "similar" in Nadterechnyy District.

In other respects, the situation in Chechnya is the same as on any day, with the federal forces coming under fire 18 times over the past 24 hours, including 10 such incidents in Groznyy. Five servicemen were wounded.

"Provocations against polling stations continued unabated over the past few days, and buildings where they are situated have come under intermittent fire in various regions of the republic," Sorokina says.

Russia: Emil Pain Comments on Elections in Chechnya

LD1606224496 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 16 Jun 96

[Studio interview with Emil Pain, member of the Russian Presidential Council and head of the working group of the State Commission for settlement of the Chechen crisis, by correspondent Nikolay Svanidze; from the "Zerkalo" program — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Svanidze] Emil Pain is in the "Zerkalo" studio.

Emil Avramovich, you have just heard what General Tikhomirov said. Do you agree with everything he said? How would you comment on the way the elections are going in Chechnya and the situation in the republic?

[Pain] Well, at least I can say that it was expected, it was expected by many people, that after the threats from Aslan Maskhadov that the elections would be wrecked, that the situation would be considerably worse than it is at present. In general, the situation is within the normal limits. As Tikhomirov said, before the elections, too, there were violations of the truce accord and before the elections, too, there were shootings. In general, the elections have not badly affected the situation. That is very important.

The hopes of many of the president's opponents and the fears of his supporters that possible attacks on polling stations in Chechnya will worsen the conditions for the presidential elections in Russia have not been realized — one can say that quite definitely.

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[Svanidze] So, the elections have not made the situation any worse. But have they had any positive effect?

[Pain] It is important for me at present to note that today they have not had a bad effect and that is something quite considerable. We can say that at present the situation is under control, that not for a single hour has there been a cessation of contacts between representatives of the state commission...

[Svanidze, interrupting] Under whose control?

[Pain] Under the control of the federal authorities and under the control of the local authorities. To continue what I was saying, contacts between representatives of the state commission and Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev and his supporters have not ceased. Agreement has been reached on continuing the negotiating process. A whole series of talks is scheduled. Thus, the likelihood that the president's peace plan will function and the situation in Chechnya in the end will normalize, such hopes exist and there are good grounds for them.

[Svanidze] There were fears that the elections would wreck relations between the Kremlin and Yandarbiyev. What can you say about that?

[Pain] Well, you can see that they have not wrecked them and they have not wrecked them because...

[Svanidze, interrupting] One can say that quite definitely?

[Pain] Yes, one can already say that quite definitely. First because, as I have said, there have been contacts. Second, there have been statements from the head of the state commission and the prime minister that Moscow is observing the accords — the accords that were reached in Moscow and those that were reached in Nazran. And the spirit of the accords — connected with the idea that all questions must be resolved by peaceful means — this spirit is welcomed by both sides.

And, what is particularly important, Yandarbiyev does not have the strength — particularly to implement his promises and threats about wrecking the elections in the Chechen Republic, neither the military nor the psychological strength.

Well, there is yet another factor. It seems to me that the Yandarbiyev supporters are not interested in hindering the presidential elections in Russia and in hindering Yeltsin's victory.

[Svanidze] In your view it is in their interests to have peace and stability in Russia at present?

[Pain] They are interested in peace and stability. They are interested in the continuation of the talks that have begun under the present administration and they do not want to risk what might happen if there is a change.

[Svanidze] Emil Avramovich, the agreement in Moscow that Yandarbiyev signed. Can one say that he signed it in effect on behalf of the majority of the field commanders in Chechnya?

[Pain] Yes, I can say that quite definitely. Few people know that the accords in Nazran were in effect approved by all field commanders with the exception of Ruslan Gelayev.

[Svanidze] In Nazran or in Moscow?

[Pain] In Nazran. Even Basayev was represented at the talks by his brother.

[Svanidze] There are no contradictions between them?

[Pain] No, that does not happen. In Chechnya brothers do not fight against each other and a younger brother does not contradict his elder brother. So, if Shirvani was at the talks then one can say that Shamil in one way or another supports them.

[Svanidze] Thank you, Emil Avramovich.

Russia: Chechen Gunmen Reportedly Attack Polling Station

LD1606133396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1321 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, June 16 (Interfax) — Chechen gunmen tried to seize a polling station and the local police headquarters in Argun, 15 kilometers east of Groznyy, last night, sources at the Chechen Interior Ministry told Interfax Sunday.

They said the attack lasted for over 30 minutes and was repulsed.

A concealed firing site for shooting unguided rockets and a homemade launcher with ten shells were found 1.5 kilometers away from the Groznyy Severny airport, the sources added.

Russia: Five Presidential Candidates Receive Under 1 Percent of Vote

LD1706100596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0919 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 17 (Interfax) — According to the information obtained by the Central Election Commission as of noon, five contenders for presidency won less than one percent of the popular vote.

Svyatoslav Fedorov received 0.95 percent of votes, Mikhail Gorbachev — 0.52 percent, Martin Shakkum

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— 0.35 percent, Yuriy Vlasov — 0.20 percent and Vladimir Bryntsalov — 0.16 percent.

These figures reflect the voting results of approximately 89 percent of people who took part in the presidential elections on June 16, or around 65 million voters.

Russia: Elections Declared 'Valid'; 53-Percent Turnout Seen

LD1606173396 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 16 Jun 96

[Report by correspondent Aleksandr Gurnov from the headquarters of the Central Electoral Commission in Moscow; from the "Vesti" newscast — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Gurnov] Good evening Nikolay, good evening esteemed TV viewers. The main item of news now is that the elections held in Russia today are valid.

As at 2000 hours Moscow time [1600 GMT], 53 percent of registered voters have voted. This translates into approximately 56 million people. It is quite easy to count in Russia because we have 106 million registered voters and that is why each percentage point equals approximately 1 million people.

Data have by now come in from everywhere except Chechnya. The computer system is not working in Chechnya and hence official, exact data will evidently come in later.

Incidentally, we have data on how the military voted in Chechnya because they have just come in from the Ministry of Defense. Approximately between 90 and 99 percent of servicemen in Chechnya have cast their votes, the ones stationed in garrisons, not towns.

As far as the whole army is concerned, 95.5 percent of servicemen have voted as at 2000 hours.

As for the electoral turnout, well, there have been no changes over the past two hours as far as the Far East is concerned, with the figure of 57 percent remaining unchanged. However, the figure of 54 percent in Siberia has in the past two hours climbed to 58 percent. The Urals and the trans-Ural area had the figure of 50 percent and it has by now become 59 percent. The figure in our own time zone has climbed over the past two hours from 40 percent to 50 percent, a 10 percent increase in the turnout.

We in the Federal Information Center have just been addressed by Dmitriy Oreshkin, chief analyst of the center. He made a rather bold forecast. He said that despite the lower turnout than planned for this point in time, they were expecting a turnout of up to 70 percent or even more by the day's end. [passage omitted]

Russia: Pro-Communist Regions Show Highest Voter Turnout

LD1606172396 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1545 GMT 16 Jun 96

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Good evening, the First Channel's special issue devoted to the pace of voting is on the air. The final reports on the turnout in the country — we are entitled to report only this kind of information before 2300. Our correspondents have just received final reports on the number of those who have cast their votes in the country. Our correspondent Dmitriy Kochetkov is on the line.

[Kochetkov] Our program had an opportunity to receive the data on the results on voting, pardon me, on the turnout in Russia's central regions. Dmitriy Oreshkin, main analyst of the Central Electoral commission, will tell us about them.

[Oreshkin] Indeed, the reports are slightly delayed, by approximately 40 minutes. I have to make comments literally from notes. Unfortunately, I cannot give you a full analysis. But I can see how voting is going on in the central regions. The biggest turnout of over 60 percent was in Karachay-Cherkessk Republic, Republic of Kalmykia, Stavropol Territory, Belgorod, Bryantsk, Vladimir, and Voronezh regions — those territories that have been traditionally described by politologists as the so-called red belt.

With regard to the pro-democratic regions — the turnout is slightly lower there. For example, the turnout in Murmansk Region had been 50 percent, Nizhniy Novgorod — 54 percent, St. Petersburg — 44 percent. We have not yet received reports from Moscow and Moscow Region.

Voting is under way. We are expecting the second wave — the evening flurry of activity of the electorate. It is likely that fresh information will be arriving in the next few hours and we will be informing you on this.

Russia: High Turnout Reported Among Voting Servicemen

LD1606101096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1004 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 16 (Interfax) — The Russian armed forces are "exceptionally active" in the elections of the Russian president, a Defense Ministry spokesman told Interfax on Sunday.

He said that as of 12:30 p.m., Moscow time, 97 percent of servicemen had taken part in the voting in the Far

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Eastern Military District, over 84 percent in the Siberian District, over 50 percent in the Leningrad District, 97.5 percent of those serving in the Pacific Fleet, and over 50 percent of the Northern Fleet.

The spokesman said that voting in the armed forces will "mostly finish" by 3:00 p.m. Moscow time.

Russia: Chernomyrdin Concerned About Low Voter Turnout in Regions

LD1606134496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1333 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, June 16 (Itar-Tass) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is concerned with much lower than predicted turnouts in a number of regions.

In an interview with Itar-Tass, he called on voters to fulfil their civil duty "in order not to exchange their future for an extra hour at dachas, garden or at TV sets".

Russia: Filatov, Fedorov Comment on Voter Turnout

LD1606134996 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1300 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The press center of the all-Russian movement for public support for Boris Yeltsin is holding briefings every hour on how the elections are proceeding. Sergey Filatov, chairman of the movement, noted that the turnout among the electorate is not yet as high as was expected. According to his information, the voting regulations are being violated most frequently by supporters of [Gennadiy] Zyuganov. Instances of clear campaigning and even threats toward divisional electoral commissions have been registered.

Boris Fedorov noted that turnout is highest among those who live in the countryside where Zyuganov supporters predominate. Turnout is low among urban dwellers where, according to preliminary information, there are more Yeltsin supporters.

Russia: Yeltsin's Aides Say Vote Rigging 'Open to Question'

LD1606155496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1542 GMT 16 Jun 96

[By Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, June 16 (Itar-Tass) — The likelihood of election rigging remains open to question until the results of voting are published, Sergey Filatov and Vyacheslav Nikonov, the chief managers of Boris Yeltsin's campaign, said.

The opposed political camps remain suspicious of one another.

Addressing a briefing today, Nikonov cited earlier statements of communists that supporters of Yeltsin would be sure to use power levers to fix voting results.

Responding to this, Nikonov said "supporters and active functionaries of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation chair election commissions at 60 per cent of polling stations".

According to other analysts, the regional apparatus of the Central Election Commission has not been renewed over the past 10-15 years. Nikonov ironically remarked that local commissions are manned, as in the era of the Communist Party's way, by people "who know how to report about conducting elections with participation of 99.99 per cent of voters". The Russian movement for support to President Boris Yeltsin has its observers at 93,000 polling stations, as against 200,000 observers of the "popular patriotic bloc" cited by its communist leaders Gennadiy Zyuganov and Valentin Kuptsov.

Itar-Tass correspondents are reporting from regions that pro-communist observers show more discipline and activity compared to supporters of other presidential candidates.

The chief managers of Yeltsin's campaign, Sergey Filatov and Vyacheslav Nikonov, said at the briefing that only the official tally published by the Central Election Commission (CEC) would be reliable.

"However, if communists oppose the CEC's figures by their own, alternative election results, the Russian movement for public support to President Boris Yeltsin (RMPSP) will be able to check the opponents' results using ballot copies obtained by RMPSP observers at all polling stations," Filatov said.

Russia: Illegal Activities of Zyuganov Supporters Reported

LD1606162096 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In the country as a whole the presidential elections are proceeding without particular violations of law and order, INTERFAX was told at the Internal Affairs Ministry's Information Directorate. The ministry spokesman said that the internal affairs bodies and interior troops are monitoring the situation at the voting places.

Meanwhile, IMA-PRESS reports breaches have come to light. Thus, at polling stations No. 49, 50, and 51 in Chita Region unsealed ballot papers were discovered, in which ticks had been made against the names

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of Zyuganov and Zhirinovskiy. At voting places in Bryansk, alongside Russian flags, red flags had been hung out. At the Bolshevik state farms in Starodubskiy District, a working day had been declared.

The geographical spread of Gennadiy Zyuganov supporters' illegal activity is very wide: from Petrozavodsk to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy, IMA-PRESS reports. In Novosibirsk, breaching the ban on propaganda on election day, canvassers for Zyuganov are today giving out the SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper and materials insulting the honor and dignity of his main rival Boris Yeltsin.

Russia: Ministry Source Reports 3 'Militia Staff' Killed

LD1606094396 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian 0910 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A source in the Ministry of Internal Affairs told Ekho Moskvy radio station that three militia staff had been shot dead at polling stations.

One incident occurred at Biysk [north Siberia] and the other at Lobnya [Moscow region]. [no further information given on other incident]

Russia: Four Arrested for Vote Fraud in Yaroslavl

LD1606142296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1401 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YAROSLAVL, June 16 (Interfax) — Four drunk men were detained at the 115th polling station in Yaroslavl on Sunday as they attempted to put 34 filled-in ballot papers into the ballot box, the chairwoman of the station's electoral commission, Natalya Krotova, confirmed to Interfax.

"The ballot papers had been stolen from the tables of the commission members," she said.

The incident is being investigated by experts from the Kirovskiy district interior department of Yaroslavl. An observer from the Communist Party noticed the incident, she said.

Russia: Israeli Observers Report No Violations in Elections

LD1606163396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1619 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 16 (Interfax) — Israeli observers monitoring the June 16 Russian presidential elections in Moscow so far have not registered a single violation of the voting procedure, a member of the group of Israeli observers, Hannan Bar-On, told Interfax tonight.

"Our group has visited nine polling stations in central Moscow and in the outskirts of the Russian capital since this morning," the Israeli observer said. "We can say that the vote is being held in full compliance with legislation," he said.

Falsification of the election results is hardly possible because observers representing all presidential candidates and their campaign activists are monitoring the vote at nearly all polling stations visited by the Israeli observers, he said.

The Israeli observer said he was pleasantly surprised at the warm and calm atmosphere at polling stations. "We did not notice any signs of nervousness among voters. People look contented and happy to take part in the elections," he said.

At one election center visited by the Israeli delegation Sunday afternoon over 50 percent of registered voters had already voted, the observer said, adding that this was a very high voter turnout.

Constance Krehl, head of the European Parliament delegation monitoring the Russian presidential polls, gave a similar assessment of the June 16 vote. "I spoke to members of our delegation and, according to their evaluations, the elections are going alright and without violations," she told Interfax tonight.

European Parliament observers in Moscow and Yekaterinburg share this opinion, Krehl added.

Russia: Yeltsin Gives Campaign Speech in Yekaterinburg

LD1406122396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1213 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YEKATERINBURG, June 14 (Interfax-Eurasia) — President Boris Yeltsin finished off his presidential campaign Friday in his native city of Yekaterinburg.

"I love Russia and want to make her great and prosperous," the president, who arrived with his wife, daughters, and grandchildren, told a large meeting. Earlier, he had visited the graveyard where his relatives are buried.

"I have two forces," he told the crowd, "you and my family."

"Behind me is my family, behind you is Ural, and behind us is Russia!" Yeltsin said.

"Five years ago, we chose freedom, the renewal of Russia, a new, worthy life," he said. "We stormed the shore, and went forward, and now it is clear that we will solve our problems. We are worth a better life, and we will achieve victory.

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"I have learned a lot in five years, and now there can be no retreat. Together, we will win."

Russia: Yeltsin's Campaign Visit to Yekaterinburg Detailed

MM1706103696 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 15 Jun 96 pp 1, 2

[Report by special correspondent Aleksandr Gamov: "The Urals Region Will Protect Yeltsin With Its Stone Breast. Russian President Completed a Big Preelection Tour in Yekaterinburg Yesterday"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ...Water trucks spent all night passing noisily beneath the windows of the "Sverdlovsk" Hotel, where the "presidential press" had been put up. I am ashamed to say that the thought occurred to me that the city was titivating itself for the arrival of its famous son. But no.... "We always wash these streets," Stepan Semenovich, driver of a water truck, explained. "It is all the same to us whether it is Yeltsin or Zyuganov...."

It turns out that they had planted out roses around the memorial to Urals servicemen in the station square only because it was time to do so. Yekaterinburg in general, unlike many other cities that I have visited with the president during these months, greeted the lofty guest with traditional Urals restraint. At least, the portrait of "our candidate" adorned only every 100th lamppost, whereas in Moscow it is on every second or third lamppost. [passage omitted]

In general, a warm welcome and earnest demands awaited the Russian president, who had announced his decision to run again for the post of head of state precisely in Yekaterinburg in the middle of February and, at the same time, promised his fellow countrymen that he would return to his home city after completing the election campaign.

Right by the aircraft steps, in reply to a question from KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's correspondent as to how he rates the current presidential election campaign in Russia, the head of state said: "I believe that it is, in general, proceeding normally. There have been no gross violations. Equal conditions are being created for all the candidates — both on television and in the mass media in general." Have we made progress toward democracy? Boris Nikolayevich made the following comment on this question of mine: "Unfortunately, the democrats have never been able to unite...."

Yeltsin set out from the airport with Governor Rossel for the Malyy Istok residence, where his favorite Urals cabbage soup and an intimate conversation awaited Boris Nikolayevich.

Closer to evening the president and the governor arrived at the famous "Plotinka" in the Istoricheskiy Garden, where a sea of voters awaited them, having been warmed up in advance, as is customary, by Russian variety stars. Making with his fist the "They shall not pass!" gesture and unembarrassed by his Urals "accent," Boris Nikolayevich once again, as in February, tried to persuade his fellow countrymen which was the correct choice and which was not. And what would happen to Russia if they made the "wrong" choice.

"Boris! Have another go at it!" Yeltsin's fellow countrymen chanted. "We will stick up for you!"

Russia: Yeltsin Casts Vote in Moscow, Rules Out Communist Win

LD1606070496 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0521 GMT 16 Jun 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 16 June (Itar-Tass) — "Out of the question" was Boris Yeltsin's answer today to journalists' questions of whether there was "a danger that the communists will win" the presidential election.

The Russian President and his wife arrived at a polling station in Krylatskoye [western Moscow] at about 0900 [0500 GMT] this morning. In good spirits, he walked past journalists gathered outside the school that was serving as a polling station and told them not to ask whom he was voting for, reminding them with a smile that campaigning is not allowed on election day.

Russia: Yeltsin Thanks Russian People at Conclusion of First Round

LD1706054596 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0500 GMT 17 Jun 96

[Russian President Boris Yeltsin recorded address to the people of Russia; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] We have just received a recording of an address to the people of Russia by President Boris Yeltsin. Here it is:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] Citizens of Russia, fellow-countrymen:

The first round of voting in the Russian Federation presidential election has ended. The Central Electoral Commission will soon announce the official results. But the main result is already evident: a free, direct, and fair election has taken place in Russia. There were many predictions that it would be cancelled or wrecked, but none of those predictions came true. As head of state, I

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would like to thank all those who turned out at polling stations and reaffirmed their resolve to move forward, to pursue the goal Russia chose five years ago. This goal is a proper, prosperous, and worthy life for all the people of Russia. Thank you for your resolve, for your support.

But it is not all as simple as that. The first round has been inconclusive. Therefore, there will be a second round of the election. We shall have to vote again. Why?

Many candidates took part in this election, among them several well-known politicians and respected people: Aleksandr Lebed, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, Svyatoslav Fedorov.

Most of you made the right choice and voted for a new life. But you split your preferences among several candidates, and therefore there was no outright winner in the first round. Therefore, it is too early to rest and believe that everything will turn out fine by itself. It will not.

Now, after the first round, the situation has changed. The choice is absolutely clear: either to go back to revolutions and upheavals, or forward, toward stability and prosperity. Today, we have to be united as never before. Whatever divides us, we have one motherland, one Russia.

We often argue about how to live from now on. The same argument, the same fight continues in this election, but it should result in accord. The main thing is that we all love our fatherland. This means we have to be together. Together, we shall win. [Video shows Yeltsin standing in park] [end recording]

Russia: Yeltsin Not Pleased With Results; 'No Talk' of Coalition

LD1706052796 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0448 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Summary] Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy correspondent Anatoliy Adamchuk, reporting from a news conference being given by Viktor Ilyushin, head of the group of presidential aides, says: "Less than an hour ago, the president gathered all his aides for a conference. It turned out that the President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin was not quite pleased with the results so far."

"First, he had hoped there would be no second round, and second, turnout was not as high as forecast and obviously not as high as he had hoped. Since turnout in the second round is usually much lower than in the first, he may have problems," Adamchuk said.

"One thing about which Boris Yeltsin was quite clear was that there would be no changes in the government, at least in the immediate future," the correspondent said, and added: "There is no talk of any coalitions so far, and it looks as though in the next one to three days, and maybe even until the second round, all this will be played down and there will be no talk of any coalitions."

Russia: Yeltsin To Switch Tactics to 'Coalition Campaigning'

LD1706094296 Moscow Interfax in English 0919 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 17 (Interfax) — Boris Yeltsin will change his election race tactics from individual to coalition campaigning, his aide Yuriy Baturin reported at a briefing in Moscow today.

Since even a fraction of a percent matters in the current tiny gap in the number of votes gained by the leading contenders, he told Interfax, Yeltsin will negotiate with all democratically-oriented presidential candidates such as Aleksandr Lebed, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy and Svyatoslav Fedorov.

Baturin described as a diplomatic gesture the consent given by Lebed on television to form a coalition with Yeltsin and the readiness Lebed expressed to get down to work with the president "even tomorrow."

Although the offer was veiled, it quite frankly implied "negotiations," Baturin said, adding that "Lebed's electorate is very complex, its structure is not quite clear and it's still in the making."

Even if Lebed asks his voters to back Yeltsin, they may turn a deaf ear to his appeal, Baturin said, regarding Lebed's victory over Zhirinovskiy to become one of the three top election contenders as "an important and quite useful election result."

Doubting that Yeltsin will negotiate a coalition with Liberal Democratic Party leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy in the run-up to the second round of elections, Baturin said: "I do not think that negotiations with him would be the right step and would be useful for the president, and I do not think they will take place."

Russia: Yeltsin Aide on Possible Partners for 2d Round of Elections

LD1606211996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2103 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 17 (Interfax) — The range of possible partners Russian President Boris Yeltsin could unite with in the second round of elections will be the same as before the first round, Presidential Political Advisor Georgiy Satarov told a briefing in Moscow early Monday [17 June] morning.

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"We will hold talks with all those we talked before the first round," he said.

Asked to comment on the success of Yeltsin's campaign, Satarov said in general it had been well organized. The only possible mistake could be that it began relatively late, he said. "Probably, the campaign should have been started two months earlier," he noted.

Holding the elections on Sunday played its part in the fact that the actual voter turnout was lower than expected, he said.

Satarov pointed out the support of Our Home Is Russia (NDR) led by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, especially locally. He highly praised the NDR action dubbed Landing Party of Youth when some 1,500 young observers went to the regions to monitor the elections. Young NDR supporters gave "very much useful information" to Yeltsin's campaign committee, Satarov said.

Russia: Shakhray Points to Yeltsin Alliance With Lebed

LD1706055896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0450 GMT 17 Jun 96

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW June 17 (Itar-Tass) — Working with candidates, who have not qualified for the second round of the presidential elections in Russia, will be a priority in the activities of Boris Yeltsin's election-campaign headquarters, Sergey Shakhray, former Vice-Premier and member of the headquarters, told journalists at the press centre of the public movement in support of the President of the Russian Federation on Monday.

Shakhray specially dwelt on the possibility of Yeltsin's alliance with Aleksandr Lebed, pointing out that "although a detailed analysis still lies ahead, Lebed's program is rather liberal and its goals — a fight against crime, the strengthening of order, etc. — do not contradict the policy objectives of the Head of State".

While 70 per cent of people, who voted for Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, will not vote for Yeltsin in the second round under any conditions, according to June public opinion polls, only 40 per cent of the electorate of Aleksandr Lebed and 36 per cent of that of Grigoriy Yavlinskiy adhere to a similar anti-Yeltsin position, Shakhray explained.

Respectively, the remaining 60 and 64 per cent of Lebed's and Yavlinskiy's constituents are Boris Yeltsin's potential electorate, and work among them should be the focus of attention in the run-up to the second round, he said.

Apart from drawing the first-round candidates into Yeltsin's election campaign, appropriate talks on which, as Shakhray made it clear, are already under way, the election-campaign headquarters also has in store other methods to win the electorate over.

Russia: Yeltsin Promises Cabinet To Be Changed 'Radically'

LD1406152696 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The president has ended his blitz visit to Yekaterinburg with a brief interview with correspondents of the Russian Public Television other news agencies:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] The government composition will be radically changed the same day. Both the presidential and the government teams will be replaced. New people with fresh and new ideas will be coming in to implement the reform in a truly new way. [end recording]

Russia: Yeltsin Answers Reader's Questions on Economic Aims

MM1406155196 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 14 Jun 96 p 1

[President Yeltsin replies to questions sent in by RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA reader Dmitriy Golubev from Smolensk: "Russian Presidential Contender: Joint Action by Two Newspapers: The President Replies"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our editorial office has cooperated with colleagues from YOMIURI, Japan's largest newspaper, in the preparation of the previous publications about the Russian presidential candidates on the basis of conversations with the contenders for the country's supreme state office. But today the interviewing journalists give way to Dmitriy Osipovich Golubev, a RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA reader from Smolensk, who has sent us some questions in writing. His questions — difficult and thorny ones — are addressed to Boris Yeltsin. So now the president replies.

[Reader] The capitalist market is effectively a game of chance where the West is a skilled card sharp and Russia is a novice who has gambled his shirt. How do you expect to beat the West?

[Yeltsin] The element of "chance," that is, of purely speculative operations represents only a minor part of the modern capitalist market. And although such

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operations play an important and even necessary role, the basis of the market is different. The modern Western market is sustained primarily by production and highly efficient labor. By the fact that people really need the labor expended. And by the fact that the consumer is able to choose a cheaper or better-quality product.

The Russian market's difficulties have nothing to do with the fact that its "card sharps" are less successful than those in the West. Any Russian crook, like those from the MMM bank, could give his Western counterpart a 100-point lead and still win. The only problem is that the people will derive no benefit from this kind of "leadership."

Our main difficulty is that the element of "chance" in the Russian economy today far outweighs the element of labor productivity. There are many reasons for this, but one of the main reasons is that for several years we were unable to halt the rapid increase in prices. And when you have high inflation it is not profitable to invest money in production. Only speculative operations are profitable then.

It is now six months since we finally achieved low inflation. Now it is only political instability and the fear of new revolutionary upheavals after the election that are keeping Russian business from investing money in production.

But the main hope lies not in the money of rich entrepreneurs but in the savings of the majority of Russian citizens. After all, everyone is concerned about his future and the future of his family — which is why many people have savings. Each individual's savings taken separately do not amount to much, but if added together and invested in the bank they would be enough to launch the economic recovery. But people must also be confident if they are going to put their money to work for the Russian economy rather than stashing it away for a rainy day like a family insurance fund. They need to be confident that there will be no new economic experiments. Only then will they place their hard-earned money in Russia's banks, which will invest it directly in production.

This is what I am counting on above all. I am convinced that after I win the election Russians will at last acquire the confidence in the future that they need so much.

[Reader] How can the tax payments of a few prosperous businessmen feed the vast mass of the unemployed? After all, even when everyone had a job there wasn't enough money in the budget. Will these businessmen be able to invest in industry and agriculture if they need large sums of money to pay for their own bodyguards?

[Yeltsin] You were absolutely right when you said that everyone had a job in the economy that was managed by the CPSU but there wasn't enough money in the budget. This is one of the main signs that the old economic system was defective. That is why it collapsed.

Today's high unemployment is the hidden unemployment of the past which has come to the surface. This is the inevitable price paid by the people for the fact that their former leaders did not begin the reforms early enough and reduced the country to bankruptcy.

The main task is not to go on "feeding the unemployed" year after year from an ever-dwindling budget while counting on help from a generous foreign benefactor but to begin the economic recovery as soon as possible. Only then will new jobs appear and the unemployed total fall.

You were also absolutely right when you noted that the need for extra spending on bodyguards reduces the potential for production investments. The high crime rate in the Russian economy is a most serious problem. I am not going to repeat the usual comments about the need to combat crime. My program talked enough about that in specific detail. I will draw your attention to two things.

First, such problems cannot be resolved overnight. The new Russia is still very young. There are still many gaps in our legislation. The habits of the old Soviet days, which was strictly speaking when the shadow economy was formed and any form of enterprise was impossible without breaking the law, are still strong. Second, high inflation, under which speculation and not capital investment in production is the only way to make a profit, is a breeding ground for economic crime.

That is why the fact that we have managed to achieve a substantial reduction in the rate of price growth is the most reliable guarantee of real success in the fight against crime. It is only after inflation is conquered that people will see from personal experience that honest, skilled labor is profitable, the country needs it, and other people need it.

[Reader] How do you intend to achieve general accord in society if tens of millions of people are suffering from hunger and are wearing the rags that they bought back in Brezhnev's day, while millionaires are spending their money on prizes for the television game shows that have mushroomed everywhere and on buying real estate abroad instead of investing it in the national economy? Why should I respect people who have snatched the last crumb from our mouths for the sake of those game shows?

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[Yeltsin] So long as the country is poor it will always be very difficult to achieve accord: The smaller the "pie" that has to be shared out, the fiercer the struggle for every crumb will be. "Fair" shares alone will not help here. That is why the most important thing is to achieve economic growth as quickly as possible.

As for the unacceptable face of certain Russian millionaires, I have to say that the image of the nomenklatura party leader enjoying benefits that were only available to the privileged few does not command great respect either. I also have to say that the traditions of arts patronage and philanthropy are already being revived in Russia too. I am confident that such activity will develop. The state will do everything it can to promote this.

[Reader] How do you plan to organize the production of competitive output if industry and agriculture are wrecked, poultry farms are closing down, and we are importing "Bush's legs" from overseas? The idea of buying weapons abroad has even been mentioned on television because our military-industrial complex is wrecked.

[Yeltsin] The production of competitive output can be organized in two ways.

First, you stop using the whole might of the state to force consumers to buy expensive, substandard output. Then no one will be able to produce shoddy goods because they will simply not sell. The leader of an enterprise, a poultry farm, for example, will have to make a tough choice: Either he will have to learn to produce cheap, high-quality goods that people are prepared to buy, or else he will go bankrupt. Better still, he will hand over his business to a different, more capable manager who not only knows how to transform state aid into personal income (by keeping the workers on starvation rations) but also knows how to organize competitive production properly.

There is another way. You deny the majority of citizens access to high-quality goods, you simply ban their import. The consumer then has no option but to take what he can get. Then there will be no bankruptcy. But enterprises producing substandard output can only be saved to the detriment of the consumer, the customer, the majority of ordinary citizens. Only at their expense. Then you pay workers low wages and use the money saved that way to support a few export sectors. With this support they will be able to sell their substandard output abroad at such low prices that it will sell over there.

Sound familiar? It is what used to happen in the past. I do not think that anyone wants to return to that kind of "competitiveness." If the Russian economy is to achieve real rather than sham competitiveness it will be necessary to learn to produce the things that people need. The things that people are prepared to buy.

Of course, some state support for this country's producers (that is, support from taxes levied on the majority of citizens, paid for by them) is necessary. But the scale of that support must be carefully calculated. It must not stop us getting rid of the old Soviet custom that no matter what you produce it will go, that 0the state will pay up, come what may.

[Reader] The IMF loan will perhaps be enough to plug the budget gaps and clear the wage arrears for three months, but where is the money to come from then? After all, there is hardly anything left to sell off except the land. Last year the sale of enterprises raised huge sums — trillions — but even so there was not enough for pensions and wages, was there?

[Yeltsin] Indeed, if we "sell off" the last remaining resources instead of producing new, competitive output no IMF loan will be enough. That is precisely why it is necessary to ensure the conditions that start the economic recovery as soon as possible. Our policy is aimed at that. We have already done good groundwork here.

I am confident that we will soon be able to abandon the unsatisfactory practice of constantly "robbing Peter to pay Paul" as far as the state budget is concerned and then completely abandon foreign loans, which are increasing the state debt inherited from the past. That is why I am running for a second term as president. This is why I am hoping to win.

I hope that my answers will help you to make the right choice 16 June. I am counting on your vote.

Russia: Grachev Says Army Supported Yeltsin, Further Reforms

LD1706101996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1010 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 17 (Interfax) — Russia's Defense Chief Pavel Grachev called a meeting of senior army officials on Monday to discuss early returns from the Sunday poll for the Russian presidency in the armed forces.

"The army has supported its Supreme Commander Boris Yeltsin and voted for stability and further reforms," a source in the armed forces' general staff quoted Grachev as saying.

Early results from polling by Russian troops deployed in other countries were also announced.

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These include Russian forces plus civilian employees stationed in the South Caucasus (Armenia and Georgia, Abkhazia included), the Black Sea Fleet and Russian missile troops deployed in Belarus and Kazakhstan where Yeltsin won 63.2, 58 and 55 percent of the vote.

The figure ran as high as to 87.3 percent at some polling stations.

General Aleksandr Lebed came second winning 24 percent of support by some army units, but Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov gained only 12 percent.

There was a 97.3 percent turnout in the Russian army.

Russia: Chubays Says Chernomyrdin To Remain Prime Minister

LD1406121396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1151 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 14 (Interfax) — If he is re-elected, current Russian President Boris Yeltsin will retain Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in his post, former First Deputy Russian Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays told Interfax on Friday.

Chubays himself does not want to seek a ministerial role in the Cabinet, though he is currently playing a key role in Yeltsin's election campaign.

Yeltsin's victory would help the coming of new members to the Russian government, believes Chubays.

"I am sure that the president will reshuffle the government after the elections," he said.

He also said that "the people who influence Yeltsin have changed dramatically over the past three months."

Chubays explains his confidence in Yeltsin's victory by the fact that the president has managed to change his image during the election campaign. "The unpredictable character which seemed to be part of his image was his main problem," he said.

Now everybody knows what Yeltsin's policy is and what it will be in the future. "Everybody knows Yeltsin and what to expect from him," he said.

Russia: Zyuganov Satisfied With Election Results

LD1606224996 Moscow NTV in Russian 2200 GMT 16 Jun 96

[From the "Itogi" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Now we have a report from the election headquarters of Boris Yeltsin'a arch rival, Gennadiy Zyuganov. Our special correspondent Ernest Matskyavichus reports.

[Matskyavichus]] When the preliminary voting results began coming in from the Russian Far Eastern regions, Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of the people's popular bloc, gave a short briefing at which he assessed the elections in general as successful and satisfactory. He said no serious violations had been noted so far, but they were still possible during the counting of the final results. At the same time, the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] chairman assured journalists that the communists did not have parallel structures of counting votes.

[Begin Zyuganov recording] Under the law, only electoral commissions have the right to count votes. We, under the law, have the right to send our observers and agents there and take part in the election process from beginning to end, until the votes are counted. [end recording]

[Matskyavichus] According to Zyuganov, on Monday the members of the people's popular bloc, after studying the results of today's voting, will define the nature of their future relations with other participants in the presidential elections. Most likely new coalitions will be formed.

[Begin Zyuganov recording] I can see a whole number of true democrats who have an interest in our program, in our approach, and style of work. I am confident that we will expand the composition of our bloc after today's elections. [end recording]

[Matskyavichus] Zyuganov said that, among his partners in the bloc, he would like to see Stanislav Govorukhin, Sergey Glazyev, and Svyatoslav Fedorov. He said he found his consultations with them encouraging.

In addition, the chairman of the CPRF Central Committee promised to name in the near future the main ministers in his potential government of popular trust, including those who are now working in Viktor Chernomyrdin's cabinet.

Russia: Zyuganov Denies Yeltsin Won Elections

LD1706110396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1043 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 17 (Interfax) — The results of the June 16 presidential elections demonstrate that 65 percent of the Russian voters disagree with the policies of incumbent Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov, Yeltsin's main rival, told a briefing at the Moscow Electoral Commission press office Monday.

"Unlike at the presidential elections of 1991, when Yeltsin got 45 million votes, only about 26 million voters support him now," he said.

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Although preliminary Central Electoral Commission results put Zyuganov 2-3 percentage points behind Yeltsin, the former maintains that the communists won in a greater number of regions. According to Zyuganov, he holds first place in 42 regions, and in 11 regions he got more than 50 percent of the vote.

He believes that the upcoming gubernatorial elections in some regions of Russia will strengthen communist positions there.

Zyuganov called to wait for the official vote count and recalled that communists have been traditionally strong in densely populated areas of Central Russia and the North Caucasus where the ballots are still being counted.

He pointed out that Yeltsin "will not be able to avoid debates" after the first round of the elections. Zyuganov said he again intends to propose Yeltsin to participate in public debates after the official election results are announced.

Zyuganov is optimistic about his chances in the run-off. He believes he can win if he manages to form a coalition with those who got more than 1 percent of the vote.

Asked whether he had offered Aleksandr Lebed, who came a surprising third, the post of prime minister in case of his victory, Zyuganov denied he had made such offers to anyone. "Tomorrow we will gather at our headquarters and work out the strategy and tactics for the near future," he said.

At the same time he believes that if Lebed agrees to join the "party of power," he will lose much of his electorate to the communists.

Zyuganov would not speak about the personal composition of his Cabinet in case of his victory in the run-off, saying that his election campaign headquarters will discuss the composition of the government and a State Council (a new government body not envisaged by the Russian Constitution - IF Note) Tuesday.

Zyuganov praised the work of communist observers who had monitored electoral commissions. According to him, these commissions "behaved decently, despite the strongest pressure exerted on them."

Russia: Zyuganov Says Yeltsin Must Change Policies

LD1606154096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1535 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 16 (Interfax) — Boris Yeltsin will not be able to hold the same policy after the June elections even if he gains the most votes, leader of the Russian Communist Party, presidential candidate Gennadiy Zyuganov told a briefing in Moscow tonight.

"Mr. Yeltsin threw everything into these elections. A qualitatively new policy should follow depending on the election results. We are backed by millions of voters," said Zyuganov.

He said the Popular-Patriotic Bloc, which nominated Zyuganov presidential candidate, will decide on tactics of its interaction with all the political forces Monday depending on the elections results.

This bloc "will much expand after the elections," said Zyuganov. He does not exclude the bloc will be joined by leaders of the Democratic Russia Party Sergey Glazyev and Stanislav Govorukhin, and by eye-surgeon, presidential candidate Svyatoslav Fedorov.

Asked whether 200,000 observers, sent by the Communist Party to all polling stations of Russia, revealed any violations, Zyuganov said no considerable violations were registered, and the preliminary voting results inspire optimism because "citizens are taking an active part in the elections."

Russia: Zyuganov Issues Appeal for Support to Lebed, Others

LD1706110696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1102 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 17 (Interfax) — Russian Communist Party leader and presidential candidate Gennadiy Zyuganov has called on some of his former rivals defeated in the Sunday poll to join forces ahead of the second round.

"No matter what final results are, they mark the start of a recovery by society which will accept a leader who will help, not inhibit," he said in an appeal to Aleksandr Lebed and Svyatoslav Fedorov as well as Russian MP Stanislav Govorukhin and leader of the Democratic Party Sergey Glazyev made available to Interfax on Monday.

It says any politician who bets on social rifts and polarization cannot help rid the country of chaos and turmoil, poverty and deprivations, but will worsen these troubles instead.

"Regardless of our outlooks and persuasions... we are unanimous that there will be no peace or national accord without a strong Russia, without a strong and just state," the appeal runs.

"We all face common problems which must be resolved before movement towards creative work: restore industry, give a new lease on life to factories and farms,

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smash crime and stifle corruption, protect the poor and destitute and revive national culture," it says.

Russia: Zyuganov Views Relations With Ukraine, Lebed's Stances

LD1706103596 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0900 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We are broadcasting live from the parliamentary center, where Gennadiy Zyuganov is meeting journalists. [passage omitted]

[Zyuganov] Improving and strengthening ties with Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan and many other republics is our top priority task. We have been doing this and will do this in future, through the interparliamentary assembly, which has regular meetings in St. Petersburg, and personal contacts with MPs and state officials. I think a visit to Ukraine aimed at strengthening and broadening ties will follow shortly. And no one will encroach on their political independence, or their unique national character, or language, or culture. We greatly respect the Ukrainian people and will do all we can to live in peace and friendship and to restore our historical traditional ties, which go centuries back. We have many things in common, we won a victory together, and every second family has relatives in Ukraine. Everyone has an interest in this: Ukrainians, Russians, and people of other ethnic origin, who live in our republics.

[Announcer] Just to remind you: you are listening to a press conference held by Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of the Russian Communist Party. He is now delivering a speech at the parliamentary centre. [passage omitted]

[Zyuganov] A certain consolidation has taken place. No one has the right to ignore that. All the experts say that in this huge region where the main arable lands and major industrial centres are concentrated our position is not only solid, but the situation is such that no one will be able to undermine our position there in the near future. This is the region which supports us and is increasing its support.

As for Lebed and Yeltsin, they are enjoying support in industrial regions, ports, and a number of agricultural regions where the situation is most desperate. Lebed has a number of sound ideas about establishing order quickly. People are tired of the grim reality and they want to live a normal life. Therefore, they have supported his, in my view, rather tough statements. But to implement them, one needs a big team, powerful political support and the relevant legislative basis.

One should take into account that Lebed has no political organization of his own. He has no legal or legislative support, I mean local representatives in the State Duma. Therefore he will have to join one of the forces. In my view, if he joins the bloc of the government ... [pauses] to all intents and purposes his slogans were directed against the present course: against the present decline, degradation, destruction, corruption, and the upsurge of crime. Any attempt to join the present authorities would mean a serious political defeat for him.

Russia: Zyuganov Interviewed on Election, Chechnya

LD1506223796 St. Petersburg Fifth Channel Television Network in Russian 1705 GMT 14 Jun 96

[Interview with Gennadiy Zyuganov, presidential candidate and leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, by Nina Berdnikova; place and date not given — recorded; from the "Elections 96" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Berdnikova] Hello. It so happens that the final election address by Gennadiy Andreyevich Zyuganov is to be broadcast on St. Petersburg Fifth Channel Television. I present to you presidential candidate Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of the Popular Patriotic Bloc, which is supported by student youth organizations, veterans, women, agrarians, religious figures, and the Cossacks.

Gennadiy Andreyevich, the 1995 elections were held six months ago. As the leader of the Communist faction, the largest faction in the State Duma, what did you manage to accomplish in that time and where do you stand today in the presidential elections?

[Zyuganov] Nina, you have just mentioned the most important thing: We have succeeded in creating a bloc that is joined by the largest parties, movements, and organizations and has already acquired some real experience. We have drawn up a substantial program, that is, our platform, and the measures needed to stabilize the economy as well as measures for social protection. All these measures are now supported by a solid legislative basis that we have created through our work in the Duma. A whole package of laws on social support for students, veterans, teachers, and the medical profession has been adopted, as well as those on compensation for lost savings and the increase of pensions. Some very important documents on the strengthening of our statehood, such as the laws on the police, the Federal Security Service, or the whole package of laws on fighting corruption, organized crime, banditry, and so on have also been adopted. All this gives us confidence at the presidential elections as well. If the president continues the policy within the legislative framework that has already been shaped by

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the State Duma, we have a good chance to stabilize the situation and restore our ruined Russia.

[Berdnikova] Gennadiy Andreyevich, people are afraid that should the Communists and the Popular Patriotic Bloc come to power, private apartments, allotments, and land will be confiscated.

[Zyuganov] This is deliberate intimidation. These people have got their apartments and allotments thanks to Soviet power. As for our own policy, say, on land, a land code has already been adopted, which says that private plots of land that are used as a garden or for a dacha allotment, or the land attached to a private house can be owned and disposed of as their owners please. Regarding agricultural land, all forms of ownership are permitted there — a collective farm, a state farm, a private farm, a peasant's holding — anything you like. The land is given on lease. It can be inherited and used in any way but it cannot be sold. The land is a gift of God and we should preserve it. Such was the decision.

Regarding apartments and many other things, we were saying that one could have apartments and reasonable rents. It is not our aim to confiscate apartments. The prices of apartments have rocketed so much that people will soon be forced to let them. But the cost of services must not exceed 15 percent of expenses. Incidentally, many city dwellers, our voters, support this idea.

[Berdnikova] Gennadiy Andreyevich, you have just said that people are being intimidated. Perhaps they are being intimidated even more by the gulags. What is one to do about that?

[Zyuganov] We are all young people in our team. All were born after the war. None of us had anything to do with those things. The party has condemned this twice at its congresses in the 1950's. We did not just repent, we have pledged ourselves never to allow any repressions or gulags. We are even against taking revenge for the past. Here in front of me is my election platform, published three months ago. Regrettably, not all the media reprinted it, although they were obliged to do it. It is written here that we are against taking revenge for the past. We must learn, know, and respect our history, culture, and traditions and not repeat our past mistakes. This is why there can be no question of any gulags and repressions.

However, today's situation is unfortunately such that banditry, for example, means repressions of a kind. The fact that there are 6 million refugees can also be seen as repressions. People are being driven from their homeland. We are against the war. We want to stop it at any cost. And we shall have no law-breaking of any kind. The president himself, the government, and the deputies must set an example of strict observance of the law.

[Berdnikova] In that case, how would you stop the war in Chechnya?

[Zyuganov] We proposed this long ago. It should not have been started in the first place. There can be no military solution there. Second, the Duma adopted five documents on the need to hold talks. Why did Yeltsin appoint Chernomyrdin head of the commission 15 month after the fighting began? This should have been done within hours after the situation there deteriorated. However, there is the law of an unjust war: Those who launched it can never stop it. Every history textbook says so. These people are not trusted. I am confident that a government of national trust will stop this war very quickly. Moreover, the plan to implement such measures does exist and we have spoken about it many times. [Berdnikova] Gennadiy Andreyevich, there is a serious problem today with the payment of wages and pensions. How will you tackle this problem and what will be the size of pensions and student grants?

[Zyuganov] The situation is horrible indeed. I travelled throughout the country. When I visit a school, faints caused by hunger are reported each week. I was in a children's home recently and handed over my Sholokhov prize to them. The children there have no proper shoes or clothes. They pick up pieces of furniture at the rubbish dumps. All this is very sad. Our main priority is the children. The children must become a privileged class. We must return all that has been taken away from them. A child should have a right to attend a kindergarten, sports facilities, and a music school. A child should be able to travel either for medical treatment or just to see his country. We must create the necessary conditions for this.

As for pensions, all this talk about us coming and redistributing everything is simply missing the point. That is all lies. Our task is to restore the purchasing power that a pension had not so long ago. Say you were receiving 80 rubles a month, which should be about 90,000 rubles in today's money. A 100 ruble pension today will be about 1.1 million or 1.2 million rubles. We aim to restore the purchasing power of the pension an individual had before. After that, we shall proceed further. First of all, we will support those who today are experiencing the most hardship. They are the single people, people who have had poor health since childhood, the pensioners, and the disabled. They should have privileges. At the same time, we must ensure that everyone is provided at least with the minimal consumer basket. Otherwise, we are already in a situation where many people cannot afford bread and milk. I have seen

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the recent government statistics, which say there are 15 million people in the country who are essentially half-hungry all the time. This is our task.

[Berdnikova] Today it is not only the single people, the pensioners, and the disabled who find life difficult. The family, too, is in a difficult situation. Do you remember that once you said that the family is a living cell of society. When this cell deteriorates, the state deteriorates too. I remember Gogol [19th century Russian writer] once said that a man [muzhchina] consists of two parts — husband [muzh] and rank [chin]. So, what position does our man find himself in today? He, the basis of our family unit, is in a situation where he does not have any rank because the enterprises are closing down, and he cannot even be a real husband because he spends all his time running around trying to earn a living.

[Zyuganov] If only to earn a living! I was in Rostov. There was a huge rally of about 30,000 people. A worker of one of the largest enterprises comes to me, gets out his metalwork hammer and says: Gennadiy Andreyevich, we do not ask for anything, I can do everything myself, just give us a chance to work. All the plants are at a standstill. Nearly all industries in the country are at a standstill. There are 20 million unemployed or partly unemployed. This is why our task is to help a man to organize his life so that he can earn a living and step out of his house without being frightened for his life, so that he can send his children to school and pay for their school meals — better still, that the school meals are free.

You are right to say that the family can live a normal life only when it has a sound economic basis, when a husband brings home his wages on time, when a woman can chose whether she wants to work or look after children or old people. This is why the family should be sufficiently provided for. Our main task is to do everything to support production and, on the other hand, to support the family as much as possible. Education must be free and parents must not have to scrape to send their child to study. A parent must know that the state will help and support him until he gets his higher education certificate. If you have lots of money you can send your child to Paris or Tokyo, it is your own business. However, everyone should be guaranteed the right to a good education. This will also strengthen the family. At the same time, a mother should know that everything, from a family planning clinic to baby food, is freely available, and that she has access to specially discounted places in children's sanatoriums, including tickets to and from such north Caucasus, Crimea, and other resorts.

[Berdnikova] Gennadiy Andreyevich, the Popular Patriotic Bloc is also supported by religious figures. How do you view such moves?

[Zyuganov] You know, the Christian Orthodox, Islamic, and Buddhist religions have always coexisted peacefully within the vast space of Russia. They have always put moral and spiritual values above material aspirations. They supported us because our banner says: Russia, motherland, people. Not statesmen. People mean culture, spiritual values, a unique identity, and faith. I visited the common wisdom and some of the prophecies in these books sound quite topical today. We must not forget the words of John the apostle who said: Those who worship the beast or his image and take his seal upon them, will be stricken by the wrath of God. I think the believers understand this perfectly well and will listen to these words today. [Berdnikova] Does this mean such cooperation is possible? A government of national trust — a coalition government that you have been talking about is also possible? What sort of people would be in this government?

[Zyuganov] This is a way out for all of us. We have been proposing it all along. You know that I mentioned more than 30 names in the State Duma last year. I said let us invite them and ask their advice on how to manage the reform. We identified certain inefficient people in the government. They have already been dismissed. On the other hand, the reason our country has not yet collapsed completely is because there are many talented and able people, good professionals, within the middle ranks of administration. Therefore, we must lean on all who can work well.

We will not be looking into people's breast pockets to see what color their party card is. Inevitably, there will be a coalition government. Some of today's people will join it, no doubt, and on the other hand, we shall have representatives of those political forces who gain the majority of votes at the elections. Then they will all be free to get down to implementing the reform. At the same time, we definitely must work in consultation with all the Duma factions and seek the views of the business community, bankers, and industrialists because they too will have to work along with the government. Only under these conditions can one be sure that such a government will be a government of trust and accord and that it will be capable of implementing effective economic policy.

[Berdnikova] Gennadiy Andreyevich, the things are such that in the past few years every government has had an opposition. How would do you ensure freedom of speech and glasnost and what will happen to such liberties?

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[Zyuganov] As a point of interest, it was our faction that introduced the opposition bill. We want the law to clearly state that without dialogue and a difference of opinion, it is impossible to work normally because there would be no democracy. We have already passed the stage when two or three politburo members were making decisions for everyone. We must not repeat such mistakes today. However, the present power wants to restore autocracy, which would mean eventual collapse. This is why we have long since urged the president, the prime minister, and influential political forces to have three branches of political power. Then we would be trying to reach consensus on the key and basic issues — security, culture, education, health care, and respect for our history and traditions. This is what a normal government and the dialogue must be based on. We are ready for such a dialogue.

We support freedom of speech and freedom of political activities. This will be guaranteed by law. There will be freedom of opposition. It will have the right to use mass media. This is only normal and natural. We are against squabbles and especially civic conflicts. We had enough of all this. In this century alone our country fought the first imperialist war [World War I], the Japanese war, the civil war, the Finnish war, and the Great Patriotic War, and has lost 100 million people in them. Now there is an increasing number of people who hate Russia, who are trying to set the whites against the reds and the new Russians against the old Russians. We must become one nation of one country with one clear and precise policy, where the safety of man and his future are paramount. Then we can face the 21st century with confidence.

[Berdnikova] Do you think there can be a peaceful transfer of power today? How do you think this will happen?

[Zyuganov] If you read this carefully, we have always acted in strict adherence to the law. When we do not like something we make proposals and introduce suitable amendments. When these are adopted they must be implemented. The law on the transfer of power has been drawn up and signed by the both houses of our parliament. It is now left to Yeltsin. It is in his interest to sign this law. If he does not sign it, everyone will think he does not intend to observe the law. On the other hand, the will of the citizens expressed at the elections must be done. Anyone who refuses to do so will bring trouble upon themselves and the whole country. The reason is simple: If you take away the man's job and his savings and yet are unable to give him the right to change the situation by the use of his vote, you can expect a very big trouble.

On the other hand, those who think they can impose their will on the people by force are very much mistaken. At one time, I studied a special dossier on war and emergency situations. I studied the cases where emergency situations were implemented i.e. where the power was installed by military means. This was the only way it was possible to achieve, and not for a long time. Such instances included cases where the rulers that used such means had support of two thirds of the country's population, or at least half of it, or where a ruler had a very powerful and combat ready army. We do not have it. In some instances there was a powerful and repressive law- enforcement structure. We do not have that either, ours has itself been stifled by the street crime. Or, there were sufficient funds to pay up everything on time — pensions and wages and sundry payments to buy off those who would do the dirty work, and where the country had reserves in case the situation deteriorates. We have none of these elements to implement such a policy. Yeltsin tried on 17 March to introduce such things, but his various ministers, big and small, said no to this. They said things will become ten times worse than in Chechnya. They were not mistaken. Therefore, any thinking man, of whatever rank, should understand well that those who are inciting them to take such decisions are pushing them toward Russia's ruin.

They managed to destroy the Soviet Union not so long ago. I do not think anyone will want to do such a thing today and finally ruin mother Russia. I am sure nothing of the sort will happen and Russia will again be revived.

[Berdnikova] Gennadiy Andreyevich, nowadays boys do not want to serve in the Army and their parents are right in preventing them from going into military service. How can a mother send her child to a conflict zone, to Chechnya, fully aware that he will not come back? Can our Army become a genuine defender of the homeland? Can we stop sending our kids to war, where they are being killed? Should our Army be professional?

[Zyuganov] The Army has always been a second church in Russia. It is the most sacrificial part of the nation. It has always been greatly respected and honored when it defends the country, its security, and independence. The Army and the church — the two most important institutions — are now being destroyed and berated. This is a personal tragedy for me. I served over three years in the Army and passed through all the stages in various branches of the Army. My family fought in the war. I was born in Orlov Region, the land that was subjected to unheard-of invasions.

They are now trying to finish the Army off. Yeltsin's edict on professional Army is totally irresponsible. Three branches of our Army are professional: the

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submarine fleet, the air forces, and the missile forces. Why are they dragging out a miserable existence? Why do pilots have only 10 hours of practice instead of 100? They are losing their skills. Why have excellent experts been put in such conditions? They say there is no gas, no money, nothing. Why cannot you maintain the present professional troops? Because the economy is at a standstill. The military industrial complex has cut its production by 92 to 94 percent. There will be no renewal tomorrow. The Russian Navy is celebrating its 300th anniversary, and not a single warship is being constructed at the shipyards. Peter the Great would turn in his grave. It is all games, games with young people, who cannot fully understand the situation, games with people. Two generations put one third of the country's wealth into security. They are now trying to finish it off. Our point of view is that the Army is one of the most important institutions. We pledge support to the Army. We will have a clear-cut doctrine and use the Army only for defending the homeland. Then the mothers will not worry about sending their sons to the Army. We will train first-class soldiers. Nowadays they throw an untrained man into a conflict zone, and you know the consequences pretty well.

[Berdnikova] Gennadiy Andreyevich, the situation is desperate everywhere. What about the farmers?

[Zyuganov] The farmers have been left to their own devices. They have been strangled by taxes and soaring prices. One large tractor once cost the monetary equivalent of 10 or 12 bulls. Nowadays a whole farm is needed: 150 cattle for one tractor. In recent times, 200,000 tractors and nearly the same number of combines have been destroyed. I was horrified by what I saw in Altay. It has the most plowed land in Russia: 7 million hectares. They have not bought a single tractor in the recent times, but have written off thousands. An agricultural program is needed to help farmers. It has been prepared, tested at the academy, and approved. The government must implement the program. We need the parity of prices. The farmers should be supported in constructing houses and roads, in establishing communications. All such programs exist. They can be implemented. To do this we need a qualitatively new tax policy and substantial cuts in taxes. We need state control over prices, fuel prices, and transport charges, at least. This would lead to economic recovery, in agriculture first of all. There will be new jobs in the light and processing industries, and in the agricultural machine-building industry. The present authorities do not want to deal with this, being fully aware that if the countryside revives, all of Russia will revive.

[Berdnikova] Perhaps this is not the only thing the present authorities do not care about? Otherwise, how can one explain soaring crime?

[Zyuganov] The fight against crime is the most difficult issue. First of all, people must be given jobs. Children must be engaged in useful activities. Many school graduates cannot find jobs. Two thirds of higher education graduates will not find jobs. What is offered? To clean someone's boots, to wash someone's cars, or to go abroad and join the underclass. Therefore, a sound state policy is required to create jobs for these people. There is no such policy at the moment. As for street crime, it can be eradicated fairly quickly. As for professional crime, we must use professional divisions from the state security services and the Interior Ministry. However, many of them have been disbanded: the Alfa group or an investigation team of the highest quality. Therefore, we must support all the professionals. Incidentally, we have supported all their proposals in the State Duma. We have voted for all of them. I thought Yeltsin would immediately pass a law on the fight against organized crime, but he vetoed it. You are right. They do not want to fight against crime. Perhaps they benefit from it.

[Berdnikova] Gennadiy Andreyevich, pursuing sound state policy requires money. Perhaps money is not the most important thing in the life of the state, but it is a necessity. Where will you find money? Where will it come from?

[Zyuganov] The most interesting thing is that while touring Siberia, Urals, and Volga... [pauses] There were huge rallies there, with thousands and tens of thousands of people. I offered them one easy problem: On the eve of the elections gather your family and ask yourself just one question — where is the money? Yesterday the average salary was 150 to 220 rubles. Now it is three times less. An academician used to have 500 to 600 rubles. He has four times less now. A student had 45 rubles — I know, I was a student. My son had five times less. There were numerous benefits: for nurseries, holiday houses, public transport, holiday breaks. There were thousands of leisure boats on the Volga. There were 50 million tourists. There is no one on the Volga now. Siberian rivers are in the same position. I have just come back from the Yenisey. We used to help Eastern Europe, Africa, and Asia. We help no one now. There are those who are now calling themselves independent.

But where has it all gone? You can open foreign magazines and see arguments about how much has been taken out of Russia — $200, $300, or $500 billion. Let us call it 300, if it were not for the low rates in our banks, be they commercial or state run — 6 to 8 percent annually, just $20 billion at low interest rates.

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Stop plundering Russia. Get light industry, the textile industry, moving. All the combines are at a standstill in Ivanovo, a textile area. Cotton is lying and rotting. They just cannot reach agreement to buy it; they are burdened with taxes. It used to be the case that 30 rubles out of every 100 that went into the budget came from sales in the alcohol industry. Now they have thrown it all away and there are no returns. Bring in a state monopoly on wholesale sales of alcohol through chambers of trade and state shops, and you will make enormous returns. It used to be the case that all gold mines were operating — 500 to 600 tonnes a year of gold was being extracted. After the war the figure was 2,500 tonnes for gold alone. Now the figure is just one fifth of that. I am mentioning here just a few things that could bring revenue to the exchequer and significantly revive the economy. If production is kick-started then taxes will follow, the transport network will get moving, and there will be a quite different situation. So it can be put right, and it can be done in a pretty reliable and quick way.

People say the foreign investors will not come. Well, I recently had a meeting with people working in our markets. We discussed why they will not come — because there are no rules of the game. Every month prices leap up. There are no guarantees of security. In China next door they have invested 130 billion, whereas with us the figure is just 5 to 6 billion. They will come, and they will do so willingly, if we are able to create normal rules. After all, there is about 200 billion invested each year in China and southeast Asia. They will be just as glad to come to Russia, because we have plentiful raw materials, a skilled workforce, and well-educated people. If only we handle our economy properly everything will work well.

[Berdnikova] Gennadiy Andreyevich, the manifesto has been published, so has your economic program. Unfortunately, as you yourself have remarked, these have not been printed everywhere and have not got through to everyone. So what do you have to say today to the people? What are your words as a major politician? These are times waiting to hear from you.

[Zyuganov] You know [words indistinct], our mother Russia and its whole people today stand at a crossroads. If you choose the wrong road disaster could come. One road leads to the destruction of our country, to its becoming one big Chechnya; the second leads to [words indistinct], and the third choice will allow us to cope with the situation. For this each of us must use his capabilities. I am confident that many of you will come to the polling stations. We do not have a great choice today. Either we correct the situation and move calmly, peacefully, and democratically to a qualitatively new course aimed at enhancing the well-being of all our citizens, at supporting all those who work honestly — be they workers, peasants, teachers, engineers, doctors, or entrepreneurs — or we lose our country once and for all. I am confident you will make the right choice. So I invite you to make use of your civic right, and I wish you all health and success. Goodbye.

Russia: Lebed Reportedly Rejects Two Government Posts

LD1706073596 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0700 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Aleksandr Lebed, one of the main heroes of the presidential elections, told Radio Liberty that he had been offered the post of Security Council secretary or the post of defense minister. He rejected both offers, saying that the first post is mostly just paperwork, and the second does not have broad enough powers. So far, we have no confirmation of these offers from other sources.

Russia: Lebed Predicts Becoming President 'Sooner or Later'

LD1606224096 Moscow NTV in Russian 2000 GMT 16 Jun 96

[Interview with Russian presidential candidate Aleksandr Lebed by Yevgeniy Kiselev in the studio — live; from the "Itogi" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Kiselev] We are now talking live with presidential candidate Aleksandr Lebed who, by general consensus, is a cause of the greatest sensation in the presidential elections in Russia. He is confidently in third place.

Aleksandr Ivanovich, you visited NTV's "Hero of the Day" program last Monday [10 June] and were interviewed in another studio, right next door in fact. And when I asked you directly about the percentage you were hoping to receive, you directly said: 17 to 18 percent. It seems your forecast is coming true.

[Lebed] This means just one thing: That I know things.

[Kiselev] Your intelligence seems to be working well. Aleksandr Ivanovich, what do you think about the results so far?

[Lebed] I was born a winner. Russia was and will always be a country of swans. Sooner or later it will be again a beautiful, wealthy, proud, and great country.

[Kiselev] Aleksandr Ivanovich, third place is not yet a victory.

[Lebed] I have told you: sooner or later victory will come. Last year I was an army commander, albeit well-known. Today I am, as you said, confidently in third

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place in the presidential race. That means that I have got the skill.

[Kiselev] How do you think the results will change as vote counting moves from the east westward?

[Lebed] I think that Gennadiy Andreyevich will start gaining more votes. I will probably get another one to two percent. Boris Nikolayevich's rate may fall by one to two percent.

[Kiselev] Can Lebed leap to second place?

[Lebed] That is not really probable. My time has not yet come.

[Kiselev] So you are not likely to reach the second round, are you?

[Lebed] No, I am not.

[Kiselev] If you do not reach the second round, what will you do then?

[Lebed] You see, our long-suffering country has covered a difficult, terrible path and it has now reached a certain frontier. [passage omitted]

[Kiselev] Pardon my persistence, Aleksandr Ivanovich, about 16 percent of the electorate has voted for you by now. [passage omitted] The decision of these people, right before the second round, as to whether they will support Yeltsin or Zyuganov, will in many respects depend on what you will tell them.

[Lebed] One thing is left for me to do: I must justify their expectations. I said in my program that the country needs human and humane order, and I will go for it. I said that the country needs reforms, including army reforms, if we wish to remain a sovereign and independent country. We are just obliged to defeat crime in the name of the future. This is what I will work on, as of tomorrow, I suppose.

[Kiselev] As of tomorrow?

[Lebed] Yes, as of tomorrow.

[Kiselev] But what about army reform? Also tomorrow?

[Lebed] [Word indistinct] If I am given power and executive functions, I will stand up to the trust given to me by millions of people. My main task is to prevent the country from returning to the quagmire of bloody chaos. That would be the end. If the Reds and the Whites start killing each other again, and a third one will wipe his feet on the remaining ones, that would be the end. The Russian state would be no more, then. We must take every possible measure to make sure that this does not happen in the future.

[Kiselev] So, as of tomorrow you will be doing your best...

[Lebed, interrupting] I will do my best to make sure that the country remains a civilized one. We have already proved today that this is possible. An even took place in our country today. For the first time in our history, for the first time, democratic elections have taken place in our country, regardless of what some people may have said, despite methods of intimidation and of whipping up panic, and despite the fact that people get killed and blown up. The Russian people has proved that they want to have a human and civilized life.

[Kiselev] Do you think the second round will take place?

[Lebed] I think we will stand up solid to make sure that it does take place.

[Kiselev] Aleksandr Ivanovich, what I am wondering about is this: at present we have figures from the Far East, where literally six months ago many voters showed togetherness in voting for the left- wing — Anpilov was very successful there. Yet now you seem to have picked up the votes of Anpilov and Zhirinovskiy and a considerable proportion of pro-Zyuganov voters. Does this mean that you are even further to the left than they are?

[Lebed] No, I am not any further to the left. I am just tougher.

[Kiselev, laughing] I have already asked you this question once before but I would like our viewers to hear your answer again. Recently Boris Nikolayevich, in answering a question about his successor, used a sentence similar to the one in your television election ad: "I know that man." Do you think he had you in mind?

[Lebed] No, what he literally said was that "there is such a man and you know him." He told me nothing about it. He could have had me in mind, or Grigoriy Alekseyevich. Therefore, I would be cautious here.

[Kiselev] Thank you, Aleksandr Ivanovich.

Russia: Yavlinskiy Willing To Discuss Coalition With Yeltsin

LD1606105296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1041 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 16 (Interfax) — Leader of the Yabloko movement and Russian presidential candidate Grigoriy Yavlinskiy hopes the Sunday presidential poll will show the possibility of a peaceful changeover in the country.

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At the same time, he described the current poll as being far from an equal, free and democratic election. The event resembles elections held under Brezhnev's rule, Yavlinskiy told reporters after casting his vote at a polling station in western Moscow on Sunday. "When it is important for the president, he immediately monopolizes the mass media," Yavlinskiy said to make his case.

He ruled out joining a Communist-led government if leader of the Communist Party Gennadiy Zyuganov wins the election.

But Yavlinskiy said he would discuss key political issues if President Boris Yeltsin decided to set up a coalition government followed by discussion of program issues and Cabinet posts.

"I would like to propose a change to the Soviet-style approach to this business when discussion covers only Cabinet posts," said the Yabloko leader. He said Yabloko was interested more in the substance of it and what kind of policy would be pursued and why. "Who exactly will implement this policy can be discussed later," he believes.

Yavlinskiy thinks the first round will show "with exactly whom Boris Yeltsin, who adores the policy of strength, will talk more." He said that the Russians will not only name the winner on June 16, but they will also determine what Yeltsin will do and with whom he will form a genuine alliance - Liberal Democratic leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, retired General Aleksandr Lebed, or someone else.

Russia: Electoral Commission Chairman Gives Interview

MK1506051196 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jun 96 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, by Ivan Rodin: "The Central Electoral Commission Comes Under Pressure from Both Sides. Nikolay Ryabov Notes That Zyuganov Supporters Break the Law More Often Than Their Main Rivals" — place, date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted]

[Rodin] District electoral commissions are usually helped by local administrations. Do you not think that this involves a certain measure of pressure, especially considering that these administrations are led by various political forces?

[Ryabov] The issue of local administrations helping commissions, including district ones, is something that has been provided for by the law. Administrations are obligated to assist the preparation and conduct of elections. Naturally, it is difficult to organize elections without the participation of state power, above all executive, structures. Take, for instance, transport or the protection of polling stations, and so forth — something that district commissions cannot possibly do on their own. Therefore, with respect to first-level commissions we can talk about a certain connection with the local administrations, but this problem is balanced, as we have often stated, by the independent status of these commissions, on one hand, and their strict accountability to higher-level commissions, on the other. A superior commission has the right not only simply to rescind decisions, but to make them on merit and thus move a subordinate commission away, as it were, from the direct influence of the administration. And the most important thing is the public oversight that has become part and parcel to our electoral system and that carries a very powerful positive charge.

[Rodin] Does it not seem to you that this public oversight is beginning to turn into something quite different: into yet another method of pressure on the electoral commissions? Are you not worried that a real "war" of observers is going to break out on 16 June?

[Ryabov] Yes, every good cause can be pursued in a way that its assets can turn into serious liabilities. And so we are seeing his happen now. Even so, we are dealing not with public oversight, but with political intrigue and political bias covered up by the so-called public oversight.

We believe that the kind of antics and statements that are coming today from generally well-respected people are impermissible in societies and states that call themselves civilized, democratic, and based on the rule of law. When the presidential team, as represented by Satarov, says that they will stage nothing short of show trials of the electoral commissions, while the other side states that it will replace electoral commissions with "commissions of people's trust," this also goes outside of the law, the norms of civilization, and even common sense. This shows that they are not talking about public oversight, because apart from dirty — I stress, dirty — groundless, and false allegations of widespread falsifications, these people have simply no other arguments to produce.

And so, based on this false premise, they are trying to correspondingly shape public opinion so as to use it — depending on the election results — in their narrow, selfish interests. Unfortunately, we have become aware of such pressure both on the part of the opposition, as represented by the Communists, and, what is really sad, also on the part of some representatives of the

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presidential team — maybe in a bid to pique the opposition. Take, for instance, Satarov's statement that "we are not satisfied with the performance by the Central Electoral Commission" and therefore are going to organize these show trials, parallel oversight, and so forth. This is a groundless allegation: I can just as well say that I am not satisfied with the performance of the presidential staff. You should say something concrete. If you make complaints that go beyond the framework of the law and we reject them, you can be dissatisfied as much as you like, but you will get exactly as much as is provided for by the law, and you will never force us to violate the law. I am saying this to whomever would like to replace the commissions with something else. To replace the commissions — and these politicos should know this — means pushing the country and society toward social conflicts that can grow into something more serious.

[Rodin] Incidentally, will the protection of electoral commissions be stepped up, compared with the previous elections?

[Ryabov] Yes, it has already been reinforced. Compared to the previous polls, the police also have their own — of course, confidential — plan providing for a rapid response to any unusual situation that can arise, including with respect to district commissions and the Central Electoral Commissions, and so forth. The Internal Affairs Ministry informed me about this. So the police have not simply declared their readiness to provide full security guarantees. [passage omitted]

[Rodin] Nikolay Timofeyevich, how will data be received via the GAS "Elections" system? Will they be coming only from the Federation component commissions or will the Central Electoral Commission be able to receive them directly from territorial commissions?

[Ryabov] No, they cannot be relayed directly from territorial commissions because there is an established communication system. This is how it will work. The commissions of the [federation] components will gather information approximately every two hours — although not necessarily, everything depending on how fast the protocols are prepared — and then data from the territory of a particular catchment area are summed up in the federation component commissions and are promptly transmitted here. Now, here, in Moscow, we are planning to produce a computer printout and present information on displays every two hours to show the dynamics of the ballot counting. Based on past experience, you must know that current [operativnaya] information proved to be highly reliable. There can be no serious discrepancy with the official data, the St. Petersburg elections being the latest example. Current information in effect coincided with the final reports.

[Rodin] And, as stated earlier, by the evening of 17 June, full preliminary results received through the GAS "Elections" system should be available?

[Ryabov] Full preliminary results are always a challenge. Why? First, because the country's territory is so huge. Second, it is impossible to avoid technical mistakes in the protocols. But in order to correct a figure in the protocol, it should be returned, the commission has to be summoned, the observers are to informed that a correction is going to be made, and only after that may a correction be made, and the protocol be sent again. And all of this takes time. Yet it can be said that by the Monday evening the general picture will be clear. Of course, it will be.

[Rodin] But the preliminary schedule remains: If by 24 June the Central Electoral Commission, after receiving all protocols, promulgates the official results, then the second round — if it is necessary, that is — will take place on 7 July. Correct?

[Ryabov] We have a somewhat different approach toward this question. We shall seek not only to stay within the law, but process the results as soon as possible, and promulgate them. The whole question is really to what extent we shall be technically ready for the second round. Without executing the official protocol on the ballot results we cannot make a decision on the second round. Only after this will the ballot-printing machine be switched on. And it takes at least from four to seven days to manufacture the ballots and distribute them to polling stations in each federation component. Therefore it is impossible to instantly fix a day for the second round: Some time will be needed — at least a week. Everything will depend on the commissions' efficiency, on how well they will process the documents. I will say this: Even if a literate person is entrusted to execute a protocol, he will not be able to do this on the first go, because this is a very difficult process. Therefore mistakes are not ruled out. So, if we have the possibility of holding the second round, not on the 7th, but on the 1st, we shall, of course, set it on 1 July.

[Rodin] Now Sergey Filatov proposes fixing the second round for 3 July. Is this possible?

[Ryabov] The second-round vote is set neither by the government or the Federal Assembly or the presidential staff. It is determined by the Central Electoral Commission within the time frame established by the law: 15 days after the promulgation of the election returns. It is another matter that if there is a readiness for the

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second round, say, before 7 July, and the state has reason for declaring a particular day a public holiday — because the law prohibits the holding of elections on working days — then, with this day in mind, we may — I stress, we may — fix elections for that day. But neither the Russian Federation Government nor any other state agency has the right to establish that Election Day will be 3 or 5 July. Yet after all is said and done, the most realistic date is 7 July. [passage omitted]

[Rodin] Nikolay Timofeyevich, is it true that the most violations [of election law] have been committed by supporters of the two main candidates: Yeltsin and Zyuganov?

[Ryabov] The most violations are by those who support Zyuganov; there is no doubt about that.

[Rodin] Can you make a prediction for the turnout on 16 June?

[Ryabov] I can say with confidence that compared with the winter 1995 elections, the turnout in these upcoming elections will be much higher. Whereas at the time the turnout was approximately 65 percent, now, in summer, it will be substantially higher.

[Rodin] Yet you must be aware of the main argument against this prediction: On Sunday, a large number of people go out to the country.

[Ryabov] Elections always happen on Sundays and therefore this cannot be a serious argument. On 17 December it was winter, it was cold, bleak, and simply difficult to get to the polling station, what with transport irregularities, for instance. Summer is quite different, and so forth. Any number of arguments and counterarguments can be produced. Yet there are concrete positive efforts underway, directed by the electoral commissions and by the candidates and their teams toward galvanizing the electorate and ensuring a higher turnout. For instance, the events targeting the youth are unprecedented in the history of both Russia and the former Soviet Union. TV and print propaganda, and agitation materials — all of them are aimed at ensuring a high turnout. Public opinion polls show that a substantially greater number of people are ready to go to the polls.

Russia: Chernomyrdin Forecasts 'New Government'

LD1606190196 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent Regina Lukashina had a chat with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin at the polling station.

[Begin recording] [Lukashina] On this day, which is crucial for Russia, what do you feel, what hopes do you have?

[Chernomyrdin] I am in a good mood, an excellent mood. And the weather is excellent, so I think people will come here today. About my plans — let us wait for the results. There will be a new government, the current one will hand over its powers, and there will be a new one. Stability is what we need, and I think that these elections are to bring real political stability. It will make it possible to work in peace, in a quieter atmosphere, at least, and to think more about work than politics. This is very important to us, this is something our country needs badly today. And I believe that is what will happen. [end recording]

Russia: Democrats' 'Disunity' Prevented Yeltsin Win in 1st Round

LD1706072596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0710 GMT 17 Jun 96

[By Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 17 (Itar-Tass) — "Only the disunity of democrats prevented Russian President Boris Yeltsin from winning in the first round of the elections," Presidential First Aide Viktor Ilyushin stated at the Press Centre of the All-Russia Yeltsin's Support Movement in the building of Itar-Tass here today. "We are realistically assessing the preliminary results of the voting," he stated, adding that "the communists have lost the first round".

Ilyushin noted that Yeltsin's HQ "did not err much in its forecasts". "The results of the sociologists, who worked with us, proved to be very close to the reality," he pointed out.

Russia: Commission Chairman Declares Elections 'Democratic'

LD1606211396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2105 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW June 16 (Itar-Tass) — Central Election Commission chairman Nikolay Ryabov said the Russian presidential elections were held "in full compliance with the law" and only minor violations were reported.

"The Central Election Commission believes that the elections in the Russian Federation were valid everywhere, were held in full compliance with the law of the Russian Federation on elections of the President and we have no doubts that they were lawful, just and democratic. I do not speak about results so far", he told reporters on Sunday.

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However, he admitted that minor violations of election legislation had taken place in some regions.

They included election campaigning at the polling stations and close to them on the day of elections, as well as disputes between observers and members of election commissions, both of who exceeded their powers in various cases.

In the Starodub district of the Bryansk region the local administration decided to make the election day a working day, according to Ryabov.

Russia: Yeltsin Staff To Propose Holding Second Round on 3 Jul

LD1706134996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1333 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 17 (Interfax) — The Russian presidential administration has drafted a bill declaring July 3 a day-off for holding the second round of Russian presidential elections, reliable sources in Moscow told Interfax Monday.

The bill will be submitted to the State Duma on behalf of the president Tuesday, said the sources.

According to the bill's authors, declaring July 3 a day-off will increase voter turnout.

Under current regulations, elections must be held on a Sunday. July 3 is a Wednesday. The bill's authors hope to increase voter turnout by shifting the elections from Sunday to a working day.

Russia: Radio Reports Schedule for Election Coverage

LD1606183096 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1740 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Preliminary information on the voting results of the Russian Federation presidential elections will be arriving at the information center in Moscow — covering the course and the preliminary results of the voting — tomorrow at 0100 [2100 GMT on 16 June], 0200, and 0300.

A break for technical reasons is likely to be announced between 0330 and 0900.

Preliminary voting results will be received at 0900, 1200, and 1800 on 17 June.

It is planned that the final version of the preliminary voting results will be reported at 1900.

Russia: Moscow Broadcasters Provide Election Coverage Plans

MK1506125996 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 15 Jun 96 p 12

[VESTNIK TELEVIZIONNOY INFORMATSII report: "Television on Election Night"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The ORT [Russian Public Television] television company plans to cover the election in special newscasts of its "Novosti" program. The newscasts will be transmitted as soon as reports reach the Central Electoral Commission, where the company plans to have its outside broadcasting [OB] van. The newscasts will include voting reports and interviews with politicians. The last "Novosti" newscast will take place sometime between 0300 and 0330.

The Russian Television will limit itself to special "Vesti" newscasts on the night of 16-17 June. They will be broadcast every hour beginning from 2300. The last newscast will be broadcast at 0300. In the intervals between the newscasts it will carry live Formula I races.

Eduard Sagalayev, chairman of the "Rossiya" VGRTK [All-Russia State Radio and Television Complex], thinks that the practice of live television coverage of the 1993 and 1995 parliamentary elections did not live up to the expectations

The NTV [no expansion] television company intends to give the most comprehensive and detailed coverage of the voting and preliminary results.

It will open with a "Segodnya" program special at 1800. At 1900, there will be the usual newscast. The "Itogi" program will be shown at 2100 as usual to last 80 minutes. "Itogi" specials will be broadcast at 2300, 2400, 0120, 0200, and 0300. The television company will be reporting from the Central Electoral Commission, the Moscow City Electoral Commission, and the Boris Yeltsin Campaign Headquarters by using three OB vans.

It was originally planned to deploy yet another OB van at Gennadiy Zyuganov's headquarters. However, in his conversation with Radik Batyrshin, "Itogi" program chief director, one of the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] leaders, Valentin Kuptsov, stated that he could not reveal to him the location of the headquarters for reasons of conspiracy; he said he feared that the disclosure of the headquarters' location may cause the current authorities to want to disrupt the system of communication with Zyuganov's campaign center.

NTV plans to air a total of about 30 reports and interviews from various locations in Russia and approx-

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imately the same number from Moscow and Moscow Oblast. Spokesmen of the company do not disclose the sum to be spent on this coverage. They are, however, confident that the expenditure will significantly exceed the expenditures of the other companies for similar coverage.

A TV 6 special program — "The Election Night." — will begin at 0115 on 17 June. Special newscasts every 30 minutes will report on the progress of the voting. In the intervals between them there will be performances of popular musicians. The last newscast will be shown at 0400, one hour later than on the other channels.

MTK [Moscow Television Channel] will carry five special reports of about 10 minutes in length each on the "Moskovskiy Teletayp" between 1830 and 2230 on 16 June. The time between 2300 and 0200 will be taken by the "2x2" television channel programs. MTK will resume broadcasting at 0700 on 17 June. In addition to "Moskovskiy Teletayp" election reports, the viewers will see several parts of "The Dynasty."

"Radio Rossii" of the All-Russia State Television and Radio Company will broadcast live to the entire territory of the Russian Federation on the night of 16 and 17 June between 2300 and 0600.

Russia: Election Outcome Scenarios Viewed

964F2480A Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 17 May 96 p 5

[Article by Igor Bunin, Aleksey Zudin, Boris Makarenko, and Konstantin Roslavlev, Center for Political Technologies: "What the Winner Will Do"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This work is part of the research "Analysis and Prognosis of the Political Situation" ("Political Prognosis" Analytic Series, Issue No. 2, 1996), prepared by the Center for Political Technologies. The authors: Igor Bunin (the center's general director), Aleksey Zudin, Boris Makarenko, and Konstantin Roslavlev.

The general contours of the presidential election campaign and its potential outcomes are fairly clear by now. The elections will inevitably go into a runoff, and the winner will be either Boris Yeltsin or Gennadiy Zyuganov. The currently existing approximate equilibrium of their chances may be tipped by a successful campaign on the part of one or the other in the home strait.

Scenario One: Yeltsin's Victory

In the event of the victory of the president and his entourage, we will again see a surge in the clash between two trends which can be termed loosely as "democratic" and "authoritarian."

The former is defined by the need to ensure the succession of power and strengthen and expand its political base in society. This assumes the emergence of the president's semi-official successor—the question that will come to the forefront the very day after the elections. The constitutional framework tacitly implies that the prime minister should become such a successor. The second trend—authoritarian—also stems from several factors. First, the presence in the presidential entourage of a stable and influential group, whose corporate interests and political orientations make authoritarian scenarios the most acceptable and favorable for them. Second, the washout of democratic elements from the presidential entourage during the period immediately preceding the beginning of the election campaign. Third, the potential weakening of the president's ties with society which should be expected in the postelection period.

Finally, we have to take into account the specificity of the situation in which the president will objectively find himself after the elections, when he will know that he will no longer have to participate in the next elections. This will increase his political autonomy and freedom of maneuver in choosing his further course of actions. In the specific Russian conditions, the formula "I do what I please, the voters can no longer censure me" may become the main political guideline of the reelected president.

The choice between these two models of development will inevitably be made "in the heat of battle," since the president is bound by the Constitution to present the prime minister nominee to the State Duma within two weeks after taking office. Although the choice here is not limited to one concrete figure, one could safely assume that if the candidacy of Chernomyrdin is offered to the State Duma, it will mean that the president is leaning somewhat toward the democratic alternative. If, however, a different candidate is offered, especially someone symbolizing "backroom policy," this will indicate the victory of authoritarian tendencies.

In the event of Yeltsin's victory, the relationship with the State Duma may develop along two main scenarios. The first is represented by the strategy of coexistence, which assumes first and foremost the State Duma's consent to the candidacy of the prime minister nominated by the president, and working out a system of compromises. The second scenario of the relationship between the reelected president and the State Duma is presented by the strategy of confrontation, which assumes that the State Duma rejects the candidacy of the prime minister proposed by the president. The latter, in turn, finds himself compelled to make a decision to disband the State Duma and call for new parliamentary elections.

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In the event of Yeltsin's victory, the general economic course of the state is unlikely to change substantially. At least initially, in the economic policy we should expect a further drifting under its own momentum, except that perhaps populist measures will stop. A certain tightening of the monetary policy is possible under the guise of the need to fulfill medium-term budget and economic program goals. At the same time, there also exists a certain possibility that the reelected president will not limit himself to the option of proceeding purely by inertia. The political energy gathered in the course of the election campaign may prompt Yeltsin into a new reformist "breakthrough" (radicalization of institutional transformations in the economy).

The choice in favor of one or the other option of building relations with the Duma will be determined first of all by the depth and scale of internal crisis in the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation], which in some or other form appears quite probable in the event of its candidate's defeat in the presidential elections. The question of the nature of relations with the State Duma will acquire better definition within the next few months. Over this time it will become clear how far the processes of disintegration in the opposition camp may go.

In any case, it appears quite possible that the "rightward tilt" headed by Zyuganov will be denounced. As a result of centrifugal processes which most likely will follow, such Zyuganov supporters as social-democratic elements, as well as nonideological opportunists (careerists) who aligned themselves with the CPRF in the hope of coming to power, may leave the party or be expelled from it. The Communist Party most likely will keep the greater part of its present membership (up to two-thirds), but will become even more orthodox. In the State Duma, as a result of such a turn of events, the factions that are currently allying themselves with the CPRF—the Agrarians and Power to the People—may pull out from under its direct control. In the political space outside the Duma, the political influence of Ivan Rybkin and his new Socialist Party of Russia (SPR) will get the opportunity to grow.

The defeat will increase the infighting in the CPRF leadership, which may lead to the removal of Zyuganov from the position of party head. Gennadiy Seleznev's role will be boosted substantially, and for him there will arise the real prospect (and incentive) of turning into a "second Rybkin." One should also expect a split between the "radicals" and the "moderates" not only inside the CPRF but also outside it. The latter will increase the probability of extremist "discharges" of the likes of Anpilov in the streets of major cities. Nevertheless, the development of these processes in the CPRF could make the State Duma politically compatible with Yeltsin and will increase, accordingly, the probability of organizing its relations with the reelected president within the framework of the strategy of "peaceful coexistence."

However, if Yeltsin wins with the "slimmest of margins," the State Duma, which is under the political control of the opposition, may interpret this result as falsification and embark on the road of confrontation. The first experience of confrontation will not necessarily result in its disbandment. It will mostly likely be followed by behind-the-scenes contacts and negotiations. The scenario of the State Duma's disbandment and early presidential elections becomes in this case a more probable prospect, since a willingness to engage in confrontation will definitely slow down the centrifugal trends in the CPRF.

The second important factor on which the strategy in relations between the reelected president and the State Duma will depend, are the main parameters of the economic policy. The "inertia" scenario of economic policy is more favorable for the strategy of coexistence. In the event the reelected president decides on radicalization of the course of reforms, the potential for the strategy of coexistence with the State Duma will be sharply reduced or may even become fully impossible.

Another rather important factor is the scale of potential disintegration of the faction-based structure that formed as a result of previous parliamentary elections. The degree of the Duma's opposition in the event of Yeltsin's victory will most likely decline. In these conditions, the further course of events will depend to a large extent on how the disposition and correlation of forces between factions changes after the defeat of the opposition candidate in the elections.

In the final count, the choice between the "democratic" and "authoritarian" scenarios of political development will depend on how relations between the president and Chernomyrdin develop immediately after the electoral victory. As a rule, after yet another victory Yeltsin always withdrew for a certain time from active political activities. In the past, this created favorable conditions for the activation of supporters of authoritarianism in his entourage. However, in this case he can only do this after deciding on the candidacy of the prime minister and presenting it for State Duma approval. The desire to distance himself from day-to-day activities will most likely prompt him to preserve at the top, at least initially, the status quo that formed in the course of the election campaign.

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This increases the probability of retaining Chernomyrdin as prime minister and continuing the current momentum in the economic course (after making some modifications to it). The figure of Chernomyrdin in principle is also compatible with the option of radicalization of the economic course after Yeltsin's victory in the presidential elections. Under such a turn of events, the "authoritarian" scenario and the personnel and political changes associated with it become quite improbable, at least in the short term.

Scenario Two: Zyuganov's Victory

The critical point on which the country's political future in the event of the electoral victory of the opposition candidate will depend will be the relationship between Zyuganov and the CPRF. Depending on this, the country's political development will proceed within the framework of one of the two main scenarios—"presidential rule" or "party rule."

The "presidential rule" scenario assumes predominantly reliance on the structures of executive authority that will be transferred to the Zyuganov team's control. The political face of the regime and the strategy of its development will then be defined by the "moderate" elements inside the party and outside it. The CPRF itself will in such a case assume an important but secondary role within the framework of the new political regime—its role will be to ensure (at least initially) the political connection between the new authorities and society and control over the mechanism of state administration, in which (again, initially) it will retain a sufficient quantity of "old" cadres, albeit reduced to fulfilling purely technical functions. The establishment of "presidential rule" will almost inevitably be accompanied by an acute struggle inside the new ruling apogee, which will result in a weakening of state authority.

The "party rule" scenario in its main characteristics is the opposite of the "presidential" one: In this case the CPRF itself will become the ruling force of the new regime—with all the attendant consequences.

The choice in favor of one of these scenarios will predetermine to a large extent the main parameters of the new regime and its policy. The choice of model of political authority will define, for instance, the regime's ideological coloration ("communist" or "great power-patriotic"), the character of its relations with the top-level bureaucracy ("compromise" or "purge"), and the economic policy model, including the degree of squeezing out the private-capitalist sector.

Enough indirect signs have accumulated by now to indicate that Zyuganov himself would prefer the "presidential" rather than the "party" model of power. He is prompted in this direction by personal interests, direction of ideological orientation, the thesis of the necessity of preserving the office of president during the "transition period," as well as the active role played in his rise and in his close entourage by representatives of Spiritual Heritage—a structure that is neither organizationally nor ideologically linked with the CPRF. It is impossible, however, to answer this question with any degree of certainty, since all the signs registered so far are mainly of the "image" nature and may be to a greater extent dictated by the election campaign environment rather than indicate Zyuganov's political priorities.

We will be able to get some idea of what model of political rule the presidential candidate from the CPRF is aiming at from the composition of the coalition government which is to be published soon. If key positions in "Zyuganov's cabinet" go to persons not affiliated with the CPRF or who at least have not held high positions in it, this will indicate Zyuganov's intention to conduct policy drawing mainly on support in the structures of executive authority ("presidential rule").

In any case, Zyuganov's own orientation will comprise only one element in a whole set of factors which will determine the choice between the two main scenarios of political development. And even if personal interests push Zyuganov outside narrow party boundaries, the CPRF's huge organizational resources will compel him to move in the opposite direction, towards the "party rule" model. The decisive role here will be played by the correlation of forces rather than outside environment factors, including the "narrow corridor of opportunity" frequently mentioned as a key factor. This makes the distinctions between the "presidential" and "party" options rather relative, despite their apparent opposition, and, as a result, "great power" models and recipes may quickly turn into "orthodox-communist" ones.

There are no "free" economic resources left for implementing either the "great-power" or "presidential" option. In the final stage of the election campaign there are even fewer such resources than before it began. In this connection, the idea of the existence of a six-month "margin of safety" in the economy, as purported by some liberal economist critics of the CPRF economic program, appears clearly obsolete. In addition, there exists a certain program minimum which Zyuganov will have to carry out in any case simply because of the promises he has made. It will inevitably include protectionist measures, antiprivatization measures, redistribution of income, and targeted support of key (from the CPRF's standpoint) sectors.

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All this taken together will open the way to the "domino effect"—the economic situation will "crumble" and the number of "bottlenecks" in it will begin to grow fast. The attempt to restore control over it will stimulate a quick drift toward restoration of the command-administrative system. In these conditions, important (if not decisive) from the standpoint of the new political regime's development prospects will be Zyuganov's and his team's ability to stop after the situation in the economy becomes unmanageable. We see two potential scenarios here. The first may conditionally be called moving in the direction of the command economy with a rising deficit and a ration-card system, quickly spreading to increasingly more categories of goods.

The second scenario involves returning to a high-inflation economy of "Latin American type." Characteristic of this option is restoration in the full volume of "bureaucratic bargaining" which the sectors, regions, and other actors from among those that survive the implementation of the CPRF's minimum program will be conducting with the federal center. However, this option will only become possible if "Zyuganov's team" demonstrates an ability to react quickly and learn quickly. But even in the interim option, large-scale destruction in the economy appears practically inevitable.

The cause lies in the distinguishing characteristics of those forces for whom Zyuganov's victory opens the road to power. These people overall are distinguished by incompetence, lack of ties with the technocracy (the regime elite), ideological involvement, and the goal of social revanche.

The political system also will undergo serious changes. Initially its old elements most likely will be retained (the president, government, State Duma, Federation Council, regional authorities). However, the correlation between them will cardinally change. Following the victory of a communist candidate in the presidential elections, all the main segments of the political system will be placed under CPRF control. The one-party system will be de facto restored. Formally, party pluralism most likely will be retained. In this respect we most likely should expect an orientation toward the old East European "decorative" pluralism rather than a return to the Stalin-Brezhnev model.

The condition for noncommunist parties' survival will be their subjugation to the new regime and a de facto surrender of real political activities. The separation of powers and the system of checks and balances following from it will be hollowed out and reduced to "institutional (departmental) pluralism," in which the largest institutions possessing their own resource base will act as autonomous and semi-autonomous centers. The real political process will be restricted to the "president-State Duma-CPRF" triangle with the active participation of corporate interests from the economy, state administration, and regions.

The most vulnerable spot in this political system will be its loss of democratic potential, and with it—multifaceted and continuously renewed ties with society. Stripped of the feedback mechanism, the authoritarian political system will begin to quickly accumulate internal contradictions and will rather soon encounter an acute crisis, which will force it either to restore totalitarian structures (in some form or other) or return to political democracy. It is unlikely, however, that the Communists will have the capability of handling the latter, and therefore it will probably will have to be carried out without their participation.

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CIS: CIS Official Welcomes Yeltsin Win in Election

LD1706115496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1124 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, June 17 (INTERFAX-WEST) — CIS Executive Secretary Ivan Korotchenya is pleased that his forecast of Russian leader Boris Yeltsin's win in the first round of the presidential poll on Sunday has materialized.

"This raises the hope for the continuance of Russian reforms and consolidation of the CIS," he told Interfax on Monday. He said that all CIS leaders during a recent summit in Moscow made it clear they wanted Yeltsin to stay put as Russian president in the hope for closer CIS integration.

The secretary said Yeltsin's involvement in the next CIS summit after re-election will make a substantial impact on the process of CIS integration.

He said the summit is expected to discuss a longer range plan of CIS integration as well as 50 different papers aimed at bringing the CIS together in the framework of the economic union.

Baltics: Leaders Concerned About Arms Level in Baltic Sea Area

LD1606130596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1232 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VILNIUS, June 16 (INTERFAX) — Lithuanian Prime Minister Mindaugas Stankevicius, Latvian Prime Minister Andris Skele and Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi have voiced concern about the possibility of a higher concentration of armaments in the Baltic Sea area.

The Baltic prime ministers believe that in line with decisions taken by the conference on the Conventional Forces in Europe agreement held in Vienna in late May and early June, Russia has the opportunity to increase the number of weapons deployed in Pskov region, which adjoins the Baltic states, reads a joint communique signed at the session held by the Baltic Council of Ministers in Vilnius on Sunday.

In this context, the three leaders urged the United States and Western European countries to reaffirm their political support for the Baltic states and increase technical aid to them in their integration into NATO and European institutions.

This issue should be raised by the presidents of the Baltic countries at their meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton, Skele told a news conference.

Having discussed the results of the conference, they gave their support to the decisions to strengthen the procedures of verifying and intensifying exchanges of military information.

In terms of technical aid, the Baltic countries mean the granting of technical instruments of control over the movement of armed forces in the adjoining territories and the strengthening of border protection, not arms supplies, said Stankevicius.

CIS: ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 15 Jun

LD1506060996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0516 GMT 15 Jun 96

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW June 15 (ITAR-TASS) — Under the law on the election of a Russian president, central Russian newspapers have no right to publish today any articles supporting this or that presidential candidate. At the same time, all the newspapers remind their readers that they should exercise their lawful right: to choose their own future.

"Your future is in your hands. Make your own choice" is the headline, frontpaged by Izvestiya. The newspapers publishes an article entitled "Foreigners will help us vote honestly." It says that foreign observers continue to come to Moscow. Some 1,100 people want to follow the voting process. They represent 54 countries from all continents and ten international organisations.

Moscow has not yet recovered from the recent explosion in the Moscow underground. Izvestiya has a copy of the open letter, sent by Natalya Narycheva, head of the executive committee of the public and political women's movement United Russia to Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov and head of the local administration of the Moscow Region A. Tyazhlov. Women express in the letter their indignation over the barbaric act of terrorism and suggest the holding of a massive protest action on the day of the funeral of its victims — a movable rally from the building of the Mayor's office by the circular thoroughfare. The movement of the car column under the Russian flag, with anti-terrorism slogans, will be both a tribute to the memory of the dead and a stern warning to the criminals, organisers of the protest action believe.

The newspaper carries an article entitled "Caucasian prisoners" about the tragic fate of the children, separated from their parents, about the nobility of character of some people and the eternal striving of people for peace.

Rossiyskaya Gazeta frontpages the headline "Elections are tomorrow. We have 24 hours to make up our minds." The newspaper carries an article urging people to avoid mistakes and make the right choice during the voting.

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Russia observes the Day of Medical Workers on Sunday. Rossiyskaya Gazeta publishes an article entitled "Humanity is made up of patients and doctors." It says that there is no sphere of people's activities as noble and wise as medicine. Ranks, wealth or nepotism mean nothing in medicine. The most important things for a medic in his career are his skill, experience, courage and reserve.

Rossiyskiye Vesti carries an interview with Andrey Davydov, head of the international relations department of the Russian Central Electoral Commission. "It is for the first time that foreign observers from about 60 countries, including, of course, the CIS member states, come to monitor the presidential elections," he said.

The newspaper publishes a large article about money collectors, entitled "Some people want to disarm money collectors." Everybody has heard about the work of money collectors. "Numerous newspaper articles have been written about them and many films have been made. People regard the profession of money collector as dangerous and, consequently, romantic. And still very few have the right idea of the amount of work they have to fulfil and about the problems they face now, with armed robberies and criminal ways of enrichment becoming the order of the day," Rossiyskiye Vesti writes.

Krasnaya Zvezda, the same as all other newspapers, also frontpages an article dealing with the forthcoming presidential elections. "No one can now prevent millions of Russians from exercising their most important constitutional right — the right to choose," the newspaper writes.

Krasnaya Zvezda carries an article about Defence Minister Pavel Grachev's trip to Brussels, where he spoke in favour of "real, and not formal partnership with the North Atlantic bloc. We favour this kind of partnership, built on absolute equality," he said.

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Russia: Grachev NATO Statements Viewed

MM1706091896 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Jun 96 p 1

[Article by Aleksandr Golts: "Russia and NATO: Only Real Partnership Can Ensure Security for Europe; Pavel Grachev Defended This Approach in Brussels"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brussels — Russia advocates real and not formal partnership with NATO. It is this kind of partnership, built on a completely equal basis, which can ensure Europe stability and security. This approach, which from the outset proposes a special place for our country, has long been a subject of debate with the NATO countries.

Today they are being filled with new content. Thus, meetings based on the "16 plus one" formula are becoming a permanent component of regular sessions of NATO leading organs. A few days ago in Berlin the head of our foreign policy department, Yevgeniy Primakov, held talks in accordance with this formula with his NATO counterparts. On 14 June Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation defense minister, took over this job when he arrived at NATO's Brussels headquarters. On the same day he addressed the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and met with the NATO secretary general and the U.S., Italian, and Greek defense ministers.

Nonetheless in my view the most important thing was his speech to the 16 defense ministers of the NATO countries. In the speech Pavel Grachev suggested a detailed concept for strengthening security in Europe. Russia's position is that this security is indivisible. The security of each state must be linked with the security of all. Consequently the architecture of security should presuppose overall responsibility and joint efforts by all states of the continent. Any attempt to invest only a group of states with this responsibility will inevitably lead to a new division of the continent. In Pavel Grachev's opinion the attempt to expand NATO by means of the states of Central and Eastern Europe could again cause a feeling in Russia that it is being encircled by enemies. As a result NATO's expansion is being used by precisely those forces which are interested in a crisis of mutual relations between Russia and the West.

Moreover, on the military plane the admission of even one East European country to the alliance will lead to a considerable increase in the levels of arms defined under the treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe. As a result this very important document could be undermined. And that means we shall again return to the situation of the cold war times when opposing groupings of troops were deployed against each other.

The reasons for Russia's disagreement with the expansion of NATO are well known but today was perhaps the first time that there was mention of what the foundation of the new edifice of European security should be like. Moscow does not intend to turn away from NATO. It intends to cooperate with the bloc. But with an updated NATO, not an expanded one. What are the prerequisites for this cooperation? Pavel Grachev believes that they are that NATO should move from the concept of "collective defense" to the concept of dialogue and cooperation with countries which do not belong to NATO. Unfortunately, so far at doctrinal level and at the level of strategic and operational planning and also at the level of troops training NATO is following the schemes of the old "East-West" confrontation. That is precisely the approaches which Russia long ago abandoned.

Pavel Grachev sees main avenue of the transformation of all European defense structures in concentrating on peacekeeping operations and actions to prevent crises. The actions of the international forces in Bosnia attest that the continent's countries can cooperate effectively in eliminating crises which arise. And to set up this collaboration there is absolutely no need to expand NATO.

It is now that the time has come to set up practical cooperation between the NATO and Russian peacekeeping structures at all levels. Pavel Grachev believes it expedient to have Russian representatives on a permanent basis both in NATO staffs and in the NATO chief commands in Europe. In this way, the Russian defense minister believes, a base will also be created for the development of cooperation between the armed forces of Russia and the NATO countries as a component of a single reserve of forces to deter common threats and to safeguard joint security. That is Russia's initiative.

In speaking of the peacekeeping operation in Bosnia Pavel Grachev did not rule out the possibility that the situation in the region could become more complex and that the question of extending the operation's mandate could arise. Russia's position is that it is essential to avoid the two extremes: an unjustifiably massive military presence and the wholesale withdrawal of the peacekeeping forces. Moscow believes that in that case it is necessary to elaborate a collective solution by all participants in the peacekeeping operation and also to ensure that all sides in the conflict agree with it.

Of course, far from all of those who heard the Russian minister's speech will agree with his approaches and views but the point of dialogue lies in exchanging such ideas, including innovatory ideas. To all appearances Pavel Grachev's visit has become one more step in the direction of real cooperation.

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Russia: Negotiations With NATO Amicable Yet Divergent

LD1406150296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1324 GMT 14 Jun 96

[By Aleksandr Mineyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BRUSSELS, June 14 (Itar-Tass) — Relations between NATO and Russia are developing positively as regards specific cooperation, but there are serious differences in the approaches to the very philosophy of the construction of the security system of the 21st century. This conclusion is drawn from conversations that Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev had in Brussels today with NATO colleagues on "16 plus one" formula and from his conversations with NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana and U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry.

It was stressed during the conversations that Russia and NATO are cooperating successfully in the peacekeeping operations in Bosnia. It was noted that NATO consents to the opening of Russia's permanent missions at the NATO Supreme Command in Europe and in some regional NATO staffs.

These missions will have a special, much higher status, as compared with missions of other countries in the framework of the Partnership for Peace programme. It is proposed that a special mission for coordination of action in Bosnia, now headed by Colonel- General Leonty Shevtsov, will remain at the NATO Supreme Command even after the peacekeeping operation is over.

At the same time the Russian Minister again strongly objected to NATO's eastward expansion. "NATO expansion and the deepening of its cooperation with Russia do not go hand-in-hand, he said at "16 plus one" meeting. Russia is prepared to cooperate with NATO that is not spreading, he said.

Grachev suggested that the North Atlantic Alliance alter its doctrine in such a way that the Western military-political alliance becomes one of the elements of the future structure of European Security and a peacekeeping instrument under the auspices of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). This idea has been rejected by NATO leadership as unacceptable more than once, and was rejected now.

In the opinion of the Russian side, NATO expansion may lead to a new geopolitical split of Europe. Questioning NATO's reasoning in favour of the spread, the Minister cited the example of the Bosnian operation where there was no problem about the deployment of forces other than NATO's.

Grachev proposed to establish cooperation between peacekeeping structures set up in Russia, on the one hand, and NATO, on the other. He said this would be a new important step in the development of partnership between the Russian Armed Forces and NATO allied forces as between components in the reserve for deterrence against common menace and for ensuring joint security.

Russia: Grachev: Moscow To Send Representative to NATO Headquarters

LD1406173796 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 14 Jun 96

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Addressing his NATO counterparts today, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev proposed a number of ways to strengthen ties between the former enemies in the Cold War. Our correspondent in Europe Vladimir Kondratyev reports from the Belgian capital.

[Kondratyev] Today's meeting in Brussels between the NATO defense ministers and their counterparts from the former socialist countries, members of the Partnership for Peace program, was supposed to answer the question: Which direction will further efforts take to overcome fundamental disagreements with Russia still opposing NATO's expansion eastward?

Until the very last minute Pavel Grachev was not sure whether he should go to Brussels or not since originally the special meeting according to the formula "16+One" — that is, the whole of NATO eye to eye with Russia — had not been planned and the minister of the great country could have been lost among dozens of ministers from small countries.

Finally, a positive decision was made and Grachev turned up in the light of television cameras. Grachev's speech prepared at home did not produce much delight at the NATO table. The Russian minister reiterated the danger of a new division on the continent if NATO accepted new members. And the phrase that NATO's expansion and deepening cooperation with Russia are two incompatible processes seemed to give up for lost the idea of reaching a sensible compromise.

NATO, however, in spite of Russia's firmness, carefully looks for, and finds positive signs. Such a sign could be seen, for example, in the call for wide ties and cooperation between Russia and NATO like between the components of a single strong-arm reserve of deterring common threats and ensuring joint security. It was in this light that NATO proposed and Russia supported

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the idea of sending top-ranking Russian officials to the alliance's top structure.

[Begin recording] [Kondratyev] In your opinion, what will the permanent representative at the NATO's top command here in Brussels be dealing with?

[Grachev] His main job will be to coordinate joint action during the implementation of peacekeeping tasks.

[Kondratyev Will he be taking part in decision-making?

[Grachev] Naturally, if there is a permanent representative here. [end recording]

[Kondratyev] Outside the session we have learned that NATO is ready to have a three-star general from Russia at the least. No other country has been given such a privilege. Will Russia regard this as a gesture of good will and a sign of special respect and, in its turn, make concessions regarding NATO's expansion? It is unlikely that the Russian policy will be substantially defined before the final election results in Russia. Complicated diplomatic maneuvering is under way and sooner or later compromise will be found. A small step forward in this direction was made in Brussels today.

Russia: Serbian Radical Holds Talks With Zhirinovskiy, Zyuganov

LD1606212996 Belgrade FONET in Serbo-Croatian 1753 GMT 16 Jun 96

[Received by fax via SRNA]

[FBIS Translated Text] Belgrade, 16 Jun (FONET) — According to a statement issued by the SRS [Serbian Radical Party], SRS Chairman Vojislav Seselj held talks with Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, in Moscow today.

They discussed today's elections in Russia and possible coalitions in the second round of the presidential elections. Zhirinovkiy told Seselj that no concrete deals had been struck and that possible coalitions will be discussed only after the results of the first round of the elections were published, the statement says.

Seselj also held talks with presidential candidate Gennadiy Zyuganov and Russian Orthodox Metropoliten Pitirin.

Russia: Diplomat Accuses U.S., UK Over UN Resolution on Iraq

LD1406144696 Moscow Interfax in Russian 1408 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] MOSCOW, June 14 (Interfax) — Observers believe that the United States and Britain have twisted Russia's arm over the adoption of the UN Security Council's resolution on Iraq, using the celebration of Independence Day in Russia on June 12 and the election campaign happenings involving the Russian leadership, a high-ranking Russian diplomat told Interfax on Friday.

The matter focusses on the resolution passed by the UN Security Council during the night between Wednesday and Thursday [12-13 June] (Moscow time), the same source said. The resolution confirms that the UN Security Council wants Iraq to meet all conditions for post-crisis settlement in the Persian Gulf.

The Iraq resolution's adoption was initiated by the United States and Great Britain, the diplomat said. "These countries' representatives convened a session of the UN Security Council as early as Tuesday [11 June] and proposed that a statement by the council's chairman in tough wording surpassing the scope of corresponding resolutions be adopted," he said. "After several countries, including China, refused to pass the document, explaining this by the need to contact their leadership, the United States and Britain proposed a draft resolution containing equally tough wording, increasing the effect of the UN Security Council's previous documents on Iraq," the diplomat said.

"Under procedural regulations, the vote on a draft resolution submitted for consideration by members of the UN Security Council can be postponed for 24 hours for the countries' representatives to receive instructions from their leadership. We requested the draft's authors to put off the draft's consideration until Thursday [12 June] because Russia marks 12 June as a national holiday and this was likely to make the problem's coordination with Moscow more difficult," the diplomat said. "However, our U.S. and British colleagues did not make concessions," he said.

"Moscow insisted that provisions surpassing the scope of the previous resolutions on Iraq should not be included in the draft," the diplomat said. "Only after such wording was removed from the draft, as we insisted, and the need to respect Iraq's sovereignty was fixed in it, did the Russian delegation vote for the document," he said.

The Russian side insisted that the need to respect the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Iraq and Kuwait be fixed in the resolution.

This resolution was approved in response to Iraq's refusal to allow a group of UN Commission experts to visit two bases of the Iraqi National Guards where, the UN believes, information relating to the Iraqi military program is being kept.

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Russia believes that the UN Special Commission for the Disarmament of Iraq led by Rolf Ekeus has the right of access to any military facilities in Baghdad, the diplomat said.

"At the same time, the special commission should take into consideration that it is acting on the territory of a sovereign state and that it must respect the attributes of this sovereignty," the diplomat said.

"Certainly, the right of free access to international inspectors to military facilities exists and the UN Security Council is keeping it under control," the diplomat said.

"However, the special commission must show some tact in performing its mission," he said.

Russia: Primakov Praises OSCE Group for Work in Chechnya

LD1406145096 Moscow Interfax in English 1409 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 14 (Interfax) — Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov talked with the chief of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE] assistance group in Chechnya, Tim Guldimann, by telephone Friday, sources in the State Commission for Chechnya Settlement told Interfax Friday.

Primakov praised the performance of the OSCE group and Guldimann personally, the sources said.

Guldimann is expected to fly to Moscow later this afternoon to meet with members of the commission and the Foreign Ministry's leadership.

The pro-Moscow Chechen administration had harshly criticized Guldimann and even demanded he be deported from Chechnya. In particular, it blamed him for "exceeding his powers, bias and contacts with persons who are criminals, according to the Russian legislation."

The Russian Foreign Ministry neither confirmed nor denied the reports about the telephone conversation and Guldimann's trip to Moscow.

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Political Issues

Russia: Yeltsin Releases Deputy Foreign Ministers Dubinin, Chernyshev

MM1406152096 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jun 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Official"]

[FBIS Translated Text] By edicts of the Russian Federation president, Russian Federation Deputy Foreign Ministers Yuriy Vladimirovich Dubinin and Albert Sergeyevich Chernyshev are released from their duties.

Russia: Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin Meet To Discuss Election Results

LD1706033196 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0317 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Boris Yeltsin was monitoring the progress of the voting throughout yesterday and into the night. And today — presumably as I speak — he is holding a meeting with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. As you will have guessed, the discussion focuses on the preliminary voting results. The head of the government said on Sunday [16 June] that some personnel changes might also be discussed.

Russia: Central Bank To Call R2-3 Trillion in Obligatory Reserves

MM1706081096 Moscow FINANSOVYYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Jun 96 p 1

[AFI report under the "News" rubric: "Central Bank's Obligatory Reserves Will Increase by 2-3 Trillion Rubles"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The introduction of new normatives in respect of obligatory reserves for credit organizations will enable the Bank of Russia to attract approximately an additional 2-3 trillion rubles [R] into its obligatory reserves in July. These estimates have been made public by Nadezhda Ivanova, director of the Central Bank's consolidated economic department. According to her, an increase in the norms for holding attracted foreign currency funds in reserve from 1.25 percent to 2.5 percent alone will require commercial banks to pay approximately an additional R800 billion into the obligatory reserves formed in the balance of the Bank of Russia. N. Ivanova emphasized that the tougher norms for credit organizations' reserves result "exclusively from the desire of the Bank of Russia to neutralize the possible proinflationary consequences of the State Duma's decision to transfer the Central Bank's profits for 1994 to the federal budget (R5 trillion)."

Military Issues

Russia: Security Service Seizes Weapons, Ammunition in Moscow

LD1606133696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1314 GMT 16 Jun 96

[By Olga Semenova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, June 16 (Itar-Tass) — There have been no emergencies in the Moscow Metro over the past 24 hours, a spokesman for the Moscow regional directorate of the Federal Security Service (FSB), Sergey Vorobev, told Itar-Tass today.

He said several telephone calls had been made to the FSB directorate over Sunday. Two calls have led a FSB group to addresses where rounds of ammunition, explosives and arms were seized. Three anonymous calls warning about planted bombs proved false.

An army rucksack with ammunition was found near apartment house No. 73 on Leningradskoye Shosse.

The sack contained an anti-tank mine, three electric detonators, three grenade fuses, some 400 grammes plastite explosive, rounds and a cartridge box for the Dragunov sniper rifle.

The detonators and fuses immediately went to sappers for destruction, and the rest to investigators.

Four 82 mm mortar shells will drilled stabilisers were found in the basement of an apartment block on Letchika Babushkina street. Army sappers were called in to move the shells away. Investigation has been opened.

Three anonymous callers said bombs were planted in an apartment house on Ulyanova street and on the track between Metro stations Lininsky Prospekt and Akademicheskaya. Checks have revealed no bombs.

The FSB spokesman said anticipatory checks in Metro and suburban trains by police patrols discovered several "ownerless" shopping bags which proved to be just shopping bags.

Regional Affairs

Russia: Election Turnout in Chechnya Reported

LD1706042696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0415 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, June 17 (Interfax) — According to a preliminary report issued at 11 p.m. [1900 GMT] Sunday [16 June], over 60 percent of voters took part in the elections of the Chechen Popular

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Assembly, Interfax was told Monday morning at the office of the head of the republic Doku Zavgayev.

277,500 out of 471,121 registered voters cast their ballots.

According to Interfax sources, elections were not held in just one region - Vedeno which is controlled by separatists. Elsewhere voting was normal, the sources said.

Zavgayev's office had no information concerning the results of the elections of the Russian president in Chechnya.

Earlier Chairman of the Chechen Electoral Commission Abdul-Kirim Arsakhanov told Interfax elections were marked by a relatively calm atmosphere and high voter turnout and said the first voting results would be announced Monday.

Russia: Zavgayev Contradicts Electoral Commission's Statistics

LD1606171896 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 16 Jun 96

[Video report by correspondents Sergey Gaponov and Nikolay Yakushev in Chechnya; from the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] At midday today [0800 GMT] Doku Zavgayev, official Chechen leader, turned up at the Chechen electoral committee. He made a statement that correspondents found strange, to say the least. [video shows Zavgayev talking to correspondents outside the commission's building]

[Begin Zavgayev recording] Throughout the republic in general, practically 50 percent have already cast their votes. That is, the elections can be regarded as valid. [end recording]

The thing is, five minutes before Zavgayev said these words the electoral commission gave different data to correspondents, according to which only about 23 percent had voted in Chechnya by 1200.

Moreover, it was not only this huge discrepancy in figures that surprised the correspondents. According to Zavgayev, voting was being held throughout the republic. According to our information, the elections were not held in Vedeno Destrict.

In addition, not a single observer could be seen at polling stations.

[Begin Zavgayev recording] I do not know; I have not checked this, but we agreed with Tim [Guldimann] that all of them would be taking part. [end recording]

Meanwhile, last night, like the previous two, was relatively quiet, bearing in mind the warning of the armed opposition that it would take measures in response to the decision by official Groznyy to hold elections to the Chechen People's Assembly. As usual, shelling was registered, but one can hardly call it the mojahedins' retaliatory measure. There is shelling day after day here.

The most serious incident took place in Leninskiy District in Groznyy. The federal forces' grenade launchers delivered a strike on a sleeping residential quarter. It began at 0200 in the morning with intensive automatic rifle shooting. Then five explosions sounded in the street and in the courtyard of a residential building. Several civilians were wounded.

[Begin unidentified man recording] A car was burning, everything was burning. We shouted: Stop it, give us an opportunity to put out the fire; they ignored us. They did not let us put out the fire and continued shelling. [end recording]

This Russian man, a resident of Groznyy, was going to vote today. Now it does not look that he will go to the polling station. It does not matter, really, because others can do it for him. Anyone, even without showing one's passport, can receive a voting paper and even more than one in Groznyy today — it is not a problem.

Russia: Chernomyrdin: Chechens Must Decide 'Many Issues Themselves'

LD1606083896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0814 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, June 16 (INTERFAX) — The Chechen people must themselves decide what kind of government they want, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told journalists after voting at his polling station in Moscow Sunday.

He said the Chechen people must decide many issues themselves, while the federal authorities must only set out the principal directions of the republic's development.

Speaking about the parliamentary elections in Chechnya, Chernomyrdin said they are held for a two-year transition period as the incumbent Chechen leader and the government will also work for two years. "Another election will be held in two years," he said.

According to him, it is now necessary to strengthen the agreements signed on Chechen settlement. "Internal Chechen dialogue is also needed. It is very important that it has already begun," said Chernomyrdin.

The dialogue is the main way to achieve peace in Chechnya, Chernomyrdin told Interfax. It is possible

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thanks to the policy of the State Commission for Chechen Settlement, he said.

According to him, "the current balance of relations both with the opposition and with other forces in Chechnya" is the main result of the commission's work. "Other participants of the peace process could have hardly found a more promising solution to the crisis settlement," said Chernomyrdin.

Russia: Chechen Opposition Condemns Parliamentary Elections

LD1506143396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1418 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SOUTH CHECHNYA, June 15 (Interfax) — The armed Chechen opposition has condemned current elections for the Chechen legislature.

The armed Chechen opposition sees "the attempt to hold the so-called elections in Chechnya as a provocation" and "retains the right to respond with adequate actions at any convenient time," reads a statement circulated by the opposition leadership in southern mountain regions of Chechnya on Saturday.

The attempt to hold the parliamentary elections in Chechnya is aimed at jeopardizing the agreements signed by the Russian authorities and the Chechen opposition in Moscow on May 27-28 and in Nazran on June 4-11, the Chechen opposition said.

Clause 1 of the agreements signed in Nazran reads that elections in Chechnya will be held after Russian federal troops are pulled out of the republic, the Chechen opposition said.

The armed Chechen opposition has proposed that the Chechen opposition and the Russian side implement "a joint operation to neutralize the performance of [Moscow-backed Head of Chechnya] Doku Zavgayev and his group" and that Zavgayev be handed over to the opposition.

Russia: Chechnya Coordination Council Urges Yeltsin Intervention

LD1406133396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1305 GMT 14 Jun 96

[By Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, June 14 (Itar-Tass) — The coordination council of Chechen public and political forces, which is active in Groznyy, has urged President Boris Yeltsin "to intervene in the sharply aggravated situation in Chechnya and to prevent the Moscow and Nazran accords from being torpedoed."

Today's appeal of the council, which is made up of representatives from most of the Chechen parties and movements, clergymen, officials, and even separatists, says that the decision of head of the Chechen republic Doku Zavgayev, premier Nikolay Koshman and leaders of the Chechen Supreme Soviet, to hold the elections to the People's Assembly of the Republic simultaneously with the Russian presidential elections, "violate, in fact, the 5th and 6th articles of the protocol on the commission's meeting of June 10, 1996, which was signed by Vyacheslav Mikhailov and Aslan Maskhadov." This, the authors of the document believe, may torpedo the concluded agreement, lead to the resumption of hostilities and to the further aggravation of the confrontation. The Chechen coordination council holds that such a course of events could be assessed only as a unilateral violation of the accords by the Russian side.

The appeal expresses the hope that the Russian president, guarantor of the concluded accords, will throw in his weight and stop "the people who are trying to thwart such a reassuring decision as that on the restoration of peace in Chechnya."

Russia: Separatists Welcome Chernomyrdin Call for Peace

LD1506132696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1319 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 15 (Itar-Tass) — Chechen separatists welcomed Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's statement confirming Moscow's commitment to the peace agreements on Chechnya on Saturday.

"Our side took Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's statement with satisfaction and saw that there are forces in the Russian leadership which really want to stop the war and that the so-called 'party of war' is opposed by a rather serious 'party of peace'," Chechen separatists' spokesman Movladi Udugov told Itar-Tass.

In his statement earlier today, Chernomyrdin reaffirmed Russia's adherence to the peace agreements on Chechnya signed in Moscow on May 27 and in the Ingush capital Nazran on June 4-11.

Chernomyrdin, who is also the chairman of Russia's state commission for the settlement of the conflict in Chechnya, stressed the fundamental importance of the agreement not to use force, or a threat of using force, to solve any disputes in the republic.

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Russia: Federal Troops in Chechnya Fired on 15 Times 16 Jun

LD1706071496 Moscow Interfax in English 0706 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, June 17 (Interfax) — The federal positions in Chechnya came under fire 15 times yesterday, including eight times in Groznyy, the press center of the federal troops command told Interfax.

Some of the federal troopers received injuries. The exact number of those injured is being established, the same source said. "The Russian servicemen used only fire arms to rebuff the attacks. Neither artillery nor planes were used," said a spokesman for the federal troops command.

He also said that the working groups of the federal authorities and the separatists are to discuss the release of the detainees in Khankala, near Groznyy, Monday.

Chechnya's central commandant's office told Interfax Monday that two servicemen were wounded in Groznyy last night as a result of an attack.

"The separatists are continuing 'mine warfare,' planting mines on the routes which federal troops will possibly take," said the source.

Two remote-control mines were found in Groznyy's Oktyabrskiy and Staropromyslovskiy districts yesterday, a spokesman for the central commandant's office said.

He told Interfax that elections proceeded without any serious incidents in Chechnya's largest cities, including Groznyy, Argun, Shali and Gudermes.

Russia: Separatists Attack Groznyy Polling Stations

LD1506062996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0606 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, June 15 (Interfax) — There were three attacks on polling stations in the Chechen capital Groznyy Friday night, Chechen Deputy Interior Minister Yuriy Plugin told Interfax Saturday.

According to him, a grenade exploded outside a polling station in Leninskiy district. In Staropromyslovskiy and Oktyabrskiy districts militants attacked local administration buildings housing electoral commissions.

The attacks were repelled through joint efforts of the local police and Interior Ministry troops, Plugin said. One Chechen policeman died defending the administration building in Oktyabrskiy district.

Plugin said two powerful land mines were discovered in the center of Groznyy Saturday morning and defused.

He did not rule out the possibility of more provocations by separatists aimed at foiling elections to the Chechen Popular Assembly. "We are ready for such a turn of developments and will take tough steps to prevent unrest," Plugin said.

Law enforcement bodies registered eight crimes in Chechnya Friday, among them two murders.

Friday night in Groznyy a Russian law enforcement officer died in Groznyy when his car hit a mine.

Russia: Shooting Incidents Reported in Chechnya 14 Jun

LD1506084096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0744 GMT 15 Jun 96

[By Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY June 15 (Itar-Tass) — A total of 14 cases of shooting were registered in Chechnya over the past 24 hours, including 12 in Groznyy. According to the information of the military commandant's office, five soldiers were wounded. Fire was opened mostly against units of the Interior Ministry troops.

A tragedy took place near the Rossiya movie theatre in Groznyy on Friday night. An UAZ car belonging to the provisional department of the Russian Interior Ministry in Chechnya was blown up there. A staff member of the department was killed and another injured. None of the locals was hurt.

Officers of the Chechen Interior Ministry found and defused two powerful land mines in the Lenin District of Groznyy today in the morning.

According to the information of the law enforcement agencies, an attack of Chechen militants on a district electoral commission for organising the election of President of the Russian Federation and deputies to the People's Assembly of Chechnya was repulsed last night in the Oktyabrskiy District of Groznyy. A policeman was wounded. An attack on a polling station was registered in the Lenin District. No casualties or destruction were reported. In the Staropromyslovskiy District the militants tried twice to take by assault the administrative building housing the district electoral commission. When retreating after the attack, the militants left three kilogrammes of an explosive, which, by all appearances, they intended to use for blowing up the building.

Candidates to the People's Assembly of Chechnya and journalists, who cover the elections in an impartial way, continue to receive threats. Criminal proceedings have been instituted on seven such cases.

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Economic Issues

Russia: Yeltsin Signs Message on 1997 Budget Policy

MM1706121796 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jun 96 p 9

[Unattributed report from "Business in Russia" section: "State Should Not Be Debtor; Russian President Has Signed Russian Federation Government Message 'On Budget Policy in 1997'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The main tasks of budget policy next year, the message says, are full financing for the social sphere, the encouragement of investment activity, and the state's unconditional fulfillment of its financial commitments.

In 1997 it is necessary to attain the following parameters:

— average monthly inflation rates of 0.8 percent;

— a federal budget deficit of 3 percent of GDP [gross domestic product].

We must ensure the growth of the proportion of tax revenue into the GDP primarily by implementing a package of measures to raise the tax revenue collection rate. The guideline is to improve the standard of tax levies in the GDP from the 9-10 percent expected this year to 12-13 percent in 1997.

In 1997 it is essential to implement the full transition of the federal organs of executive power, including the power ministries, to the treasury [kaznacheyskaya] system for the execution of the federal budget.

Tangible headway is needed on the path of budget federalism. The present mechanism of interbudget relations has its merits (the creation of a strict targeted budget fund distributed according to precisely defined criteria) and its shortcomings (financial aid is received by over three quarters of the Russian Federation components and there is no perfected system for transfer accounts).

The main task of policy in the field of financing the federal budget deficit will be the continuation of the course toward its noninflationary covering with the consistent reduction of the volume of foreign loans from state and nonstate sources.

The program of loans on the domestic financial market must be formed in such a way as to allow the reduction of interest rate to a level comparable with the dynamic of inflation. Otherwise the market in state securities will constantly suppress the trend toward the economy filling with investment resources at accessible prices. Another task is to ensure in 1997 a reduction in 1998 budget expenditure on servicing the state debt.

There must be an increase in the proportion of budget loans in the nonbanking sector through the attraction of the money of the population, enterprises, organizations, and other investors. State securities for the population must be varied, including prize bonds.

In servicing the state debt the most important priority of policy will be the optimization of expenditure in terms of the duration of loans in the direction of extending the term of state securities.

In 1997 the results of foreign economic activity will depend on a number of new conditions: Russia's forthcoming entry into the World Trade Organization and the further liberalization of the foreign trade regime and also on the course of the fulfillment of agreements with the IMF and with the clubs of London and Paris.

At the same time in 1997 the implementation of the policy of the consistent reduction of the volume of tied credits attracted into the federal budget under guarantees from the Russian Federation Government (no more than $1 billion) should begin while at the same time encouragement should be given to the use of credits without state guarantees and without the need for the budget's participation.

In 1997 we must continue to bring budget, tax, and customs legislation within the CIS framework closer together, to implement a number of joint budget programs, and to find mutually acceptable methods of paying off the CIS states' debts to Russia.

Russia: Experts Call For Stability To Revive Economy

MK1506082896 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 14 Jun 96 p 3

[Report by Yuliya Latynina: "Political Tension Will Delay Economic Growth. Production Decline Was Not Due to Reforms"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, Sergey Pavlenko, head of the Working Center of Economic Reforms [WCER], and Professor Richard Layard presented the regular monthly overview of the Russian economy. Professor Layard said that he felt positive about Russia's excellent economic prospects.

Professor Layard noted that the fall in Russia's GDP [gross domestic product] by one-third since 1991 has been due to two reasons: "the inevitable structural rearrangement during the transition from a command economy to a market one and the production of over 20 percent of GDP by the military-industrial complex, which is four times as high as in East European countries." Thus, Mr. Layard said, "the fall in production

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was not due to any flaws in the reform," which is being evidenced by the unfortunate example of Ukraine and other CIS countries, where preference was given to gradual reforms.

The professor was supported by Mr. Pavlenko, who said that if the current trend persisted, by 1998 we would have a novel situation of "a stable and rich Russia and unstable and poor [other CIS] republics," due to which the question of revising the current agreements with these countries arises. "To ask whether Russia has to pay for the failure of these countries to conduct reforms in a consistent fashion is, in fact, the same as to ask whether the Government has to settle MMM's [notorious private company that cheated its depositors] accounts," the WCER head said.

Professor Layard said that the most difficult period of reforms has already been passed. In the first four months of 1996 the real consumption level was 4 percent higher than in the similar period of 1995, whereas the percentage of people with incomes below the poverty level fell from 30 to 22 percent.

"The upsurge would have already started, had it not been for political instability," Professor Layard noted. In his opinion, Russia will hardly be lagging behind Poland, whose GDP has been growing annually at the rate of 6 percent in the past three years. Even at such a rate, however, Russia will be able to reach the level of 1990 as late as in 2004.

According to Sergey Pavlenko, the most unpleasant surprise that can affect this scenario is a possible persistence of political tension. "All calculations for 1996 were based on the presumption that the situation will stabilize after the election, regardless of its result." "The $1.5 billion of Russian money that could return to the country by August, will remain abroad, which can have an extremely destructive effect on financial markets," Sergey Pavlenko noted.

Indeed, as of late April, the budget deficit reached 51.8 trillion rubles, having exceeded the target figure coordinated with the IMF (40.4 trillion rubles). The budget deficit in the first four months of 1996 amounted to 4.3 percent of GDP (as compared to 3.1 percent over the similar period in 1995). In May, the volume of unredeemed state short-term bonds was 6.5 percent of GDP (144.9 trillion rubles), as compared with 2.3 percent of GDP in May 1995. "We have not gone beyond the redline yet, since these figures can still be adjusted in the second half of the year, but this requires stability," Sergey Pavlenko said.

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International Affairs

Ukraine: Crimea's Voting Results Mirror Russian Picture

WS1706082596 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0415 GMT 17 Jun 96

[By Lilia Budzhurova, "Special to INTELNEWS"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol, June 16 — Voting in Crimea will apparently do little to alter the overall outcome of the Russian presidential vote.

All the contending candidates on the peninsula, with its overwhelmingly ethnic Russian population, emerged from the race in the same order as preliminary results recorded throughout the Russian Federation.

Specifically, incumbent Boris Yeltsin scored first with 38.6 percent of the more than 1,200 votes counted, Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov netted 34.8 percent; nationalist Alexander Lebed, 12 percent; Yavlinskiy, 5.5 percent and Liberal Democratic Party leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy 3.7 percent.

Turnout was heavy throughout the region.

By 12:00 a.m., 383 persons voted in the Simferopol voting district. According to Alexander Zheleznikov, chief of the voting district, consul-advisor to the Consulate General of Russian Federation in Odessa, the listings of the polling station include total of more than 500 people, but he expects more than 1,000 people to come. Such a possible gap he explains by the fact that not all Russian citizens here are registered with the Consulate General of Russian Federation; also tourists, who are resting at the resorts here, should be taken into account.

The count, by the end of the day, hit 1,521 (last year, the Parliamentary elections attracted 552 persons to the polling stations) here, according to Zheleznikov. But the Communist party observers say that the number of voters never exceeded 1300.

Not everybody, wishing to submit their vote were able to do so, as it is necessary to submit a document confirming Russian citizenship. A group of 200 people, demanding to be allowed to vote, gathered in front of the polling station, with slogans: "I want to go back home, to Russia," "Motherland calls us to go back, to the USSR," "We, the Russians of Crimea, forcibly deported to Ukraine, demand the right to participate in Russian elections." Representatives of the Russian Community of Crimea compiled the lists and handed the applications for Russian citizenship to the meeting participants.

By 12 p.m., 60 percent of the military servicemen voted at 11 polling stations in Sevastopol and five more based outside the city at the military base locations controlled by the Black Sea Fleet. By the end of the day, 100 percent of the military voted.

Ukraine: Low Turnout of Russian Voters Reported in Western Regions

LD1706101696 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0845 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Lvov [no date as received] — The Russian Consulate in Lvov told UNIAN that 157 people voted in the Russian presidential elections in the consulate. These were mostly those who happened to be in western Ukraine on business or on vacation. Of that number 60 voted for Boris Yeltsin, 59 for Gennadiy Zyuganov, 22 for Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, and 11 for Aleksandr Lebed. The rest of the candidates received one or two votes. The consulate told UNIAN that the activity of the Russian citizens who reside permanently in Ukraine's western regions was extremely low, especially in Chernovtsy and Transcarpathian regions.

Ukraine: Financial Markets Gain From Russia's Election Uncertainty

WS1706083396 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0415 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, June 15 — While uncertainty surrounding the Russian presidential campaign may have unfavorably impacted Russia's financial markets, it is providing a monetary windfall to other former Soviet republics, particularly Ukraine, according to Alexander Livshits, an aide to President Boris Yeltsin on economic issues.

Experts of the Russian Finance Ministry state that Russian bankers, far from being assured that reforms will continue, are exporting their capital abroad. As a result, supply of the currency on the Ukrainian Interbank Currency Exchange exceeds demand by 30-40 times and the Ukrainian KBV [karbovanets] exchange rate is stable at KBV183,000/USD.

Experts also admit that these same reasons motivate interest of Russian investors to internal loan bones of Ukraine. Current bonds, which are to be paid off in mid-July, are most popular among Russian investors. Russian capitalists consider that even in the case of a negative election outcome (Zyuganov's victory), the Ukrainian capital market will take at least a month to react.

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Ukraine: Kuchma Calls For 'Equitable Cooperation' With Russia

LD1406172196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1506 GMT 14 Jun 96

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zhytomyr region, June 14 (Interfax-Ukraine) — "There shall be no big brother attitude" in Russia's relations with Ukraine, President Leonid Kuchma believes.

"Russia is a great state, and we need equitable cooperation with her", the President said at a meeting with inhabitants of the town of Malin (Zhytomyr region) on Friday.

L. Kuchma is currently on a working visit in Zhytomyr region.

The Ukrainian President has urged the population of the town to work in such a way "that we could feel ourselves independent", an "IF-U" correspondent reported.

Ukraine: Kuchma Discusses European Integration, NATO, Russia

WS1406142396 Warsaw POLITYKA in Polish 15 Jun 96 p 15

[Statement by Ukrainian President Leonid D. Kuchma given after the meeting of Central European leaders in Lancut; date not given: "Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma Exclusively for POLITYKA"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Is it sensible to push the 52 million-strong Ukrainian nation beyond the pale of Europe? Is it prudent not to include Ukraine in the ongoing European processes of economic, cultural and security integration? I think Europe is too small to give up on us so easily. Besides, Ukraine was always a part of Europe and historical justice demands everyone remembers and is reminded about this. When I planted a tree with my counterparts at the summit of Central European presidents in Lancut I felt a European, just like them. I think they felt the same.

It is very well that Europe understands that the role Ukraine plays in the pan-European security system — the role of the neutral state we want to remain — is special. There are many neutral states in Europe and in the world which do not join military blocs, but which are not indifferent to problems of global security. Neutrality does not by any means exclude cooperation with any alliances, political and military included. Ukraine provides ample proof of that by taking part in peace operations on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. We do, however, wish to retain our neutrality. We are realists, we do not have our heads in the clouds — we walk with our feet firmly on the ground and understand the situation in our region very well. An expression of our willingness to join NATO would sound like an unequivocal declaration, and that is what it would remain. We do not have any more time to squander on empty declarations, particularly as Ukraine's current stance satisfies everyone.

This does not mean we are against NATO enlargement. We do not see how Ukraine could be threatened by the fact that other countries join the alliance. Ukraine is only against the deployment of nuclear arms on the territory of new NATO member-states. We did not get rid of nuclear weapons ourselves to have them on the territory of neighboring states, in the proximity of our borders, regardless of whether NATO wishes to be a security system or a defense alliance. I am speaking about certain facts and their effects. I do wish to strongly reiterate our stance: We believe that every state has a right to join any political and military structures it wishes, including NATO.

I would also like to point out — since not everyone seems to remember — that you cannot build a security system in Europe without Russia. Cooperation with Russia is currently the largest challenge for Europe and the world: All possible and impossible ways and decisions have to be sought to cooperate.

Both NATO states and those waiting to join have already made a number of big steps forward in the right direction. I would like to see Ukraine become a bridge between NATO and the EU on the one side and Russia on the other.

I am often asked whether the results of the Russian elections will have an impact on the political situation in Ukraine. I say: It will, not only on our country but also on all neighboring states, perhaps even for all of Europe. Am I afraid of the results of the Russian elections? I do not think anyone in the world or in Europe should be afraid. On the contrary: We should unite and cooperate instead of living by empty declarations like we have been thus far.

One more thing: Ukraine's neighborly relations with Poland. We want them to be a reflection of everything that represents the idea of an integrated Europe, security, and trust. Moreover, this is my strategic objective. I trust the Poles think likewise: I am very grateful to Poland for what it is doing for us in the process of integration with Europe.

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Ukraine: Russian Fleet Command Bars British Warship Visit

LD1506165296 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1440 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Odessa — The British Royal Navy frigate "Chatham," which arrived in Ukraine today on an official visit at the invitation of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense, has been denied permission from the command of the Russian Black Sea Fleet to enter Sevastopol, UNIAN learned from informed sources. The crew, led by Rear Admiral Alan West, planned to visit the graves of British servicemen in Sevastopol after talks with Ukrainian Navy Commander Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy.

In the wake of the Black Sea Fleet command's decision, four British officers will fly from Odessa to Crimea on 17 June.

Ukraine: Investing in Russian Nuclear Fuel Sector Assessed

WS1706094096 Kiev VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 11 Jun 96 p 6

[Report by I. Osypchuk: "Our Nuclear Scientists Have 'Played Up' to Greenpeace. This Unprecedented Case Will Go Down in History. The Ukrainian State Nuclear Committee and the 'Greens' Do Not Want To Organize Production of Fuel for Nuclear Power Plants in Ukraine. Why?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **It seems that a notorious project to build a national factory manufacturing nuclear fuel has collapsed. The Ukrainian State Nuclear Committee decided to invest money in the modernization of the relevant Russian production structure in order to obtain cheap heat-emitting elements [TVELs] from Russia.**

Secrets Are Becoming Public

Precisely at the Ukrainian State Nuclear Committee's initiative, a decision was adopted in 1994 to establish national production of fuel for nuclear power plants. The government approved this, because nationally produced fuel is 20-30 percent cheaper than the fuel currently delivered from Russia. In addition, there were plans to produce nuclear fuel which would not be worse than the best in the world, and that cannot be said about the Russian fuel. It is also important that most difficult and environmentally hazardous procedures — the concentration of uranium — would, as before, be carried out abroad.

Ukraine launched this process by choosing a reliable and competent partner in the area. Westinghouse (the United States), ABB (Sweden-Switzerland), and TVEL Russian concern responded. The outcome of the tender became known on 1 February. TVEL, whose chances to win were far from the best, won. But one — at least journalists — failed to learn an answer to this secret: Reports from the tender were not made public. Truth be told, it was said that the TVEL concern will remain a winner if the Russian Government provides guarantees that it will deliver fuel to Ukraine at reduced prices within 15 years. This clarified the situation. But again a question emerged: Precisely what deliveries are at issue here, if we decided to produce nuclear fuel in Ukraine? **Kostyantyn Rudya,** adviser to the minister of environment and nuclear safety, who was a member of the tender committee's expert group, provided an answer to this question recently: "TVEL's proposals do not envisage the construction of a factory in Ukraine. Our country must invest means in both the creation of new and modernization of old production in Russia. Hence, the 'rules of the game' have been violated."

The Ukrainian State Nuclear Committee responded that formal procedures have not been violated. Point 38 of the regulation "On Procedures To Organize and Hold International Tenders in Ukraine" allows the acceptance of proposals, including conditions different from those required by tender rules, if they are more advantageous for Ukraine. On the eve of adopting a decision, **Nur Nigmatullin,** deputy chairman of the Ukrainian State Nuclear Committee, saw advantages for Ukraine in something else — in the joint work of Ukrainian, Russian, and Western experts.

Who Chose TVEL?

According to the Ukrainian State Nuclear Committee, a decision in favor of Russia is beneficial for Ukraine: It will save up $2 billion through the year 2010. It is clear that this amount results from the Russian fuel's low price. I must say that back in May, the Russian Federation Government provided guarantees for long-term delivery of nuclear fuel to Ukraine. But in Mr. Rudya's opinion, these arguments are shaky.

"When we invest money in the modernization of Russian enterprises, we will practically have no levers to influence our partner. Let us assume that TVEL will deliver fuel at its current price. But it is also necessary to consider the fact that the price of uranium is currently going down, and over the past decade has undergone a two-fold reduction. If this tendency continues, fuel prices will also decrease. But this will not affect TVEL's prices. There is another circumstance: new Russian fuel does not exist yet. But Russian fuel will be 10-percent less effective than the one produced by Westinghouse. Hence, the need for fuel will also be 10-percent greater.

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By investing money in the Russian nuclear sector, we will not create new jobs or provide orders for our enterprises and scientific collectives. Westinghouse envisages that processing methods, equipment, and the know-how will be made available to Ukraine, and it is also ready to buy a portion of stock in this joint venture. The last argument is as follows: According to the developed countries' demands, national imports of energy resources from one country cannot exceed 25 percent of its total national imports of energy resources, because this could damage national security. I want to stress that TVEL's victory became possible thanks to the fact that representatives of the Ukrainian State Nuclear Committee had voted for it unanimously.

It is not ruled out that Mr. Rudya is exaggerating the flawed choice of the Russian TVEL. Yes, the Russian concern has proposed that the Ukrainian State Nuclear Committee buy a portion of stock in its enterprises and participate in managing its enterprises. In addition, it will invest means in Ukraine as well. The [Ukrainian] Government has charged the State Nuclear Committee to allocate 1.2 trillion karbovantsi [K] to the Eastern Ore-Mining and Processing Enterprise (some $6.5 million, while, according to Mr. Rudya, the total cost of the project is $200 million). Regrettably, the Cabinet of Ministers press center refused to comment on the issue. But Oleh Lytvynov, Energy and Nuclear Control Directorate chief, told us in a telephone conversation that he supports the State Nuclear Committee's position. His argument is the same: $2 billion will be saved.

Ukraine: Joint Projects Signed With Polish Transport Minister

LD1506201096 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A delegation from the Polish Ministry of Transport and Maritime Economy is visiting Ukraine. Yesterday, Polish and Ukrainian transport ministers Boguslaw Liberadzki and Ivan Dankevych signed a protocol on cooperation, the first in the history of bilateral relations.

The document envisages closer ties in the transport industry. The two sides agreed to develop a European-style railway line to Lvov, a sea route linking Odessa and Gdansk and a road bridge on the Ukrainian-Polish border. They decided to increase the number of flights in both directions and negotiate a bilateral agreement on merchant marine shipping. To take full advantage of both sides' potential, the emphasis is made on joint ventures. [passage omitted].

Ukraine: Kiev Joins European Convention on Transfrontier Television

LD1606204096 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1830 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Strasbourg — Ukraine has become party to the European convention on transfrontier television. Zynoviy Kulyk, chairman of the Ukrainian State Committee for Television and Radio, signed the convention on behalf of the government. The document regulates TV broadcasting in Europe. By agreeing to adhere to these regulations, Ukraine confirmed its commitment to the obligations assumed with its entry to the Council of Europe.

National Affairs

Ukraine: Kuchma 'Dissatisfied' With Security Services

LD1506125996 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1140 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev region — "I am dissatisfied with the activities of the power-wielding structures, the Security Service, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs in particular," Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma told journalists during the tactical exercises of the National Guard of Ukraine, which were taking place near Kiev. However, touching on the activities of the Defense Ministry, he said that "most of the problems that exist are not connected with the activities of the ministry itself." Kuchma said "there can be various reasons for being dissatisfied" with its leadership, but in conditions when the state financing of the army meets only 30 percent of its needs, "I myself should assume the bulk of responsibility."

Speaking about personnel changes in the government, the president stressed that "they will be continued stage by stage." These changes are due to worsening economic situation in the state; in particular, due to the problem of nonpayments. At the same time, Kuchma said he would not like to be "accused" in the future "for the fact that the government was formed by the president and that the prime minister had nothing to do with it."

In connection with this, Kuchma said he is waiting for proposals from Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko concerning new personnel changes. The head of state believes that no effort should be spared now to turn the government into "a unified economic center." Kuchma believes only one person in the Cabinet of Ministers should be responsible for economic policy trends, contrary to the practices of the past "when it was impossible to find out who was taking one decision or another."

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Replying to a question on the new functions of the National Security Council under the president of Ukraine, which are set out in the draft constitution of Ukraine, Kuchma said the National Security Council, although it is "a consultative and advisory body," should be "an efficient body" called to take decisions "in situations when it is difficult to take an individual decision."

Ukraine: Kuchma Dismisses Energy Minister

WS1706073996 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0750 GMT 17 Jun 96

[From "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, 14 June — On June 14, the president of Ukraine dismissed Energy Minister Oleksiy Sheberstov from office. As INFOBANK had earlier reported, a special Cabinet of Ministers' commission questioned him on June 12. The Energy Ministry is one of the worst state budget payers.

Ukraine: Kuchma on Cabinet of Ministers Agenda, Marchuk's Dismissal

LD1406203896 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1555 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Zhytomir region [no date as received] — While last year Ukraine managed to achieve positive results in the economic policy, this year these processes have been taking place without the influence of the Cabinet of Ministers, which became its main mistake, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma noted during a meeting on 14 June with the leadership of the region and, in particular, the leadership of Malinskiy district.

"The payments crisis and its consequence — wage arrears — have made it necessary for me to make changes in the government, noted the head of state. I do not want to say anything bad about ex-Prime Minister Yevheniy Marchuk, but at the moment at the head of the government we need a person who understands the economy and economic processes."

Kuchma said that at the present time there is "a huge hunt for strategic enterprises, in particular, in the metallurgical and chemical industries and attempts are made to privatize them." The president noted that, because in the government "negative information was accumulating and no decisions were being taken," he had to sack the prime minister. He said that the Cabinet of Ministers must be "not an information and political center but first of all an economic one," adding that "there were preconditions for that."

Kuchma described the solving of the problems in the coal industry and searching for ways of stopping "barterization," which is acquiring threatening proportions, as "the main task for the government." In this connection, he said, the Cabinet of Ministers will pursue a "stricter" policy.

One of the most important tasks for the government in Kuchma's opinion is to implement changes in the taxation policy. "If an effective taxation policy is not developed, we will not change the current economic situation in the country, he said, noting that the parliament must adopt taxation codes not in 1998 as it plans but this year.

Ukraine: Kuchma Nominates National Space Agency Deputy Director

LD1406174596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1506 GMT 14 Jun 96

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, June 14 (Interfax-Ukraine) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma has nominated Vitaliy Zholobov as the National Space Agency Deputy Director General.

Leonid Kuchma has also issued a decree on the creation of a special fund. The fund has been created to support efforts aimed at the restoration of the Golden Domed Cathedral of St.Michail, the Assumption Cathedral of the Kiev-Pechersk Lavra (Monastery) and another well-known historic and architectural monuments of the past, an Interfax-Ukraine correspondent was told at the presidential press service.

The President has also named Ukrainian members of the Consultative Committee under the Presidents of Ukraine and Poland.

Ukraine: Constitution Bans Foreign Troops Deployment; BSF Excepted

LD1506170996 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1440 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — A Supreme Council ad-hoc commission, in charge of preparing the draft Constitution for the second reading in parliament, has approved a clause banning the deployment of foreign troops in Ukrainian territory, Commission Chairman Mykhaylo Syrota told a news conference today.

He denied suggestions that this clause will prevent the deployment of the Russian Black Sea Fleet [BSF] in Crimea. Syrota said the BSF is "a special case," to which "special conditions" will apply. These conditions will be made public after the adoption of the Constitution, he added.

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Ukraine: New Constitution Bans Foreign Military Bases

LD1406133796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1158 GMT 14 Jun 96

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, June 14 (Interfax-Ukraine) — In the course of drafting the national constitution in preparation for second reading in Parliament, the ad hoc parliamentary committee has incorporated into it a provision banning the deployment of foreign military bases in Ukraine's territory.

This was disclosed to Interfax-Ukraine at the Association of Young Politicians and Political Scientists.

If that provision is endorsed, the deployment of the Russian Black Sea Fleet in Crimea will be at variance with the Constitution of Ukraine.

Second reading of the Ukrainian Constitution has been scheduled in Parliament for June 19.

Ukraine: Army's Combat Readiness 'Too Low' To Guarantee Security

WS1706103596 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0454 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, June 13 — Ukraine's army combat readiness is too low to guarantee state security, according to independent expert reports.

Olexandr Razumkov, head of the experts' council of the Center for Economic and Political Research in Ukraine, said that Ukraine's Armed Forces, which now total about 1,0000,000 troops, have almost completely lost their combat readiness as compared with 1991-1992.

Razumkov based his assessment on research completed jointly with the Center for Social Monitoring and he added that "due to ideological and social problems, the army has become a de stabilizing factor in Ukraine."

According to Air Force staff statistics, lack of spare parts and fuel has accounted for low flying time among Ukraine's military pilots, which totaled 12-16 hours in 1995. The required norm is 160 hours.

Ukraine: Premier Sets Out Six Main Directions for Government's Work

LD1406190496 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1550 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Six main directions have been set out so far in further work of the government, Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko said during a meeting today with deputy heads of district state administrations.

He described the filling of the budget as the most important and the most painful task. Lazarenko said that from now on the government will plan its work on a more rational use of budget funds. He informed those present that during the past two years "we have had an unbalanced and largely disguised budget deficit." In addition, the budget did not take account of the debts of the budget sponsored sphere for 1995. On 1 June, wage arrears in budget sponsored establishments stood at 43 trillion karbovantsi and in the country on the whole to 242 trillion karbovantsi.

Lazarenko said that during the [first] 10 days of June the government took a number of measures, in particular, it approved a resolution reducing the total number of employees in ministries and departments by 10,200 people and introducing restrictions on the use of transport. According to him, this measure will save the budget 10.8 trillion karbovantsi by the end of the year.

He also said that the government has adopted a resolution on adjusting the wage fund and the number of employees in region and district administrations. A resolution was signed on 13 June, on regulating the mechanism of business trips. The government will today sign a resolution on structural changes in the apparatus of the Cabinet of Ministers and its significant reduction.

Speaking to those present at the meeting, Lazarenko noted that the government will involve only nonemission sources to cover the budget deficit and that it will take measures to liven up the issue of securities and to improve the work of government structures aimed at cooperation with international organizations.

Lazarenko set out the clearing of wage arrears as the second direction in the work of the government. He said that, except six regions in Ukraine, where subsidies need to be directed, it is feasible for all the other regions to achieve during June-July the arrears level for just one month. Wages for the vacation period, in particular to teachers, will be paid over the period of three months. The prime minister assured those present that the government will carry out the president's order concerning the financing of measures to ensure the provision of text books for the preparations for the new academic year.

Support for the individual producer was set out by the prime minister as the third direction in the work of the government. He noted that the budget's chief source of revenues has been the sale of alcohol and tobacco. Over the five months of this year the production volume of these items amounted only to seven percent of that in 1993. Lazarenko said that the government will take measures to regulate the import to Ukraine of these items. A proposal on speeding up the introduction

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of internal excise stamps and a transit band will be submitted in the near future.

The fourth direction in the work of the government is the overcoming of the payments crisis. The prime minister said that on 1 June, trade liabilities of enterprises amounted to 4.5 trillion karbovantsi. In the first five months of the year they had increased by 48 percent. He stressed the need for the restructuring enterprises through bankruptcies. The government will allow the privatization of certain enterprises in connection with specific investment projects. It is planned to carry out the settlement of accounts between enterprises in the nearest future.

The coal industry is the fifth direction in the work of the government. Lazarenko said that the government will carry out the necessary work in order to develop the coal industry, in particular, it is planned to equip 93 lavas. That will cost 17 trillion karbovantsi of which 10 trillion have already been allocated at the cost of commercial banks' credits under government guarantees. The credits are to be repaid during the first six months of 1997. The prime minister noted that "not a single karbovanets in that sum will be spent on wages." He also said that the government will allocate 18 trillion karbovantsi on purchasing coal for the state reserve (of which 6 trillion karbovantsi have already been allocated).

The agro-industrial complex is the sixth direction in the work of the government. Lazarenko noted that, because of the unfavorable weather conditions, it will be impossible to collect the forecast harvest of winter and spring crops. He estimates that this year the harvest will be at the last year's level.

The prime minister said that it was envisaged to allocate, by 5 July, 72 trillion karbovantsi for purchasing 5 million tonnes of grain for the state reserve and 2.5 million tonnes of grain through regional purchases. So far, 55 trillion karbovantsi have been allocated, of which 28 trillion in cash and the rest in mineral fertilizers and machinery.

Lazarenko told deputy heads of district state administrations that by 25 June, agricultural enterprises will receive 600 John Deer combine harvesters, of which 428 have already been received. He believes that "it is necessary to carry out the distribution of land, allocating it in kind."

Ukraine: Constitution Ready for Second Reading

WS1706083596 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0415 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, June 16 — Parliament's ad hoc committee approved on Saturday night a draft constitution for submission to Parliament for second reading, Communist Serhiy Hmyria told INTELNEWS Sunday.

Parliament earlier this month passed the draft in the first reading and scheduled its second reading for Wednesday.

Hmyria said representatives of Communist and Socialist factions in the committee voted against the draft, which has been "just cosmetically changed."

Committee Chairman Mykhailo Syrota said that, despite "strong pressure" exerted upon members of the committee, those which were in "kernel" of the committee, have defended the draft which was passed by the legislature in the first reading.

"I hope we were successful in withstanding the pressure," said Syrota, refusing, however, to tell journalists from where the pressure originated.

Syrota said the committee accepted only those proposals from left-wing deputies which did not concern basic provisions of the draft.

Representatives of Communist, Socialist and Peasant Party factions in the committee prepared their own draft constitution and insisted the remainder of committee take into account provisions of their draft during preparation of the draft constitution for second reading.

According to Syrota, leftists' draft was 80 percent the same as the official draft. Syrota said proposals of left-wing deputies concerned only 15-20 articles of the draft constitution.

But Hmyria said that while the committee agreed to include into the draft a provision prohibiting "exploitation of one person by another person," this provision was excluded from the draft later at the insistence of right-center members of the committee.

According to Syrota, the official draft approved in the first reading, provides for a presidential-parliamentary model of state while leftists propose a parliamentary system leaving the President with greatly reduced powers.

Syrota also said he was against leftist insistence that the constitution be approved paragraph by paragraph.

"The constitutional draft is an integral document, said Syrota. "and it should be considered in its entirety." "If Parliament votes for every provision of the draft separately, it will be easy to exclude an article on the presidential post, for example, and destroy the whole draft constitution," said Syrota.

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But Hmyria said Parliament Regulations demand consideration of draft laws in the second reading article by article and leftists will insist the constitution be considered in this manner.

Ukraine: Crimean Parties Present Ultimatum to Parliament

WS1706103496 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0454 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol, June 14 — Sixteen political parties and public organizations of Crimea came out Friday with a joint statement entitled On the Constitutional Process in Ukraine.

The decision outlined in the statement was taken at a meeting on Thursday between the leaders of the Crimean Parliament and various parties and organizations.

The statement reads: "The intention to deprive Crimea of its constitution means building a national-unitary state in Ukraine which violates the rights of ethnic minorities."

"Nobody is able to deprive us of a second state language, (the right) to have our own constitution and our own legislative body — the Parliament of Crimea, independently disposing of natural resources of the Republic of Crimea, (and) having our own state symbols."

In case these demands are ignored, the parties, according to the statement, "Reserve the right to blockade the anti-popular draft constitution of Ukraine by all legal ways and means (and) actions of civil disobedience."

The leaders who signed the statement included Vladimir Shevyev of the Party of Crimea's Economic Rebirth, who also heads the Sozidaniye (Creation) Parliamentary faction, and Sergey Tsekov of the Republican Party of Crimea, who is a former speaker of the Crimean Parliament.

In the meantime, Ukraine-oriented public organizations, such as Prosvita, the Union of Officers of Ukraine, the (Political) Prisoners' Society, and the Scientists' Society, came out with a statement on Friday calling Thursday's party meeting "an attempt of the Parliament of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea to blockade the constitutional process in Ukraine."

Ukraine: Lazarenko Cuts Central, Oblast Apparatus by 20 Percent

WS1706074096 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0750 GMT 17 Jun 96

[From "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lvov, 14 June — The prime minister of Ukraine signed a decree according to which the central and oblast apparatus of the executive power is to be cut by 20 percent. Ministries and state departments are to come up with their recommendations in two weeks.

The decree also sets limits on the number of official cars used by the ministries and other bodies of the central power. Oblast state administrations will lose 30 percent of their [official] cars. All the surplus cars are to be sold at commercial prices to companies and organizations. The money received will go into the state budget.

Ukraine: HIV Epidemic Continues Spreading at 'Fast Rate'

AU1406121796 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 12 Jun 96 p 16

[Report by the Ukrainian Presidential National Committee for Combating Crime: "AIDS Continues To Spread"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The HIV epidemic continues to spread in Ukraine at a fast rate. Whereas 1,499 HIV-positive persons were revealed during the whole of 1995, this number rose to 3,697 for just four months of 1996. Between 1987 and 1 May 1996, 5,370 HIV-positive persons have been revealed.

Particularly badly affected are Odessa, Nikolayev, and Donetsk Oblasts and the Crimean Autonomous Republic. The infection is rapidly spreading in those oblasts, in which there previously used to be isolated cases of the disease (Vinnytsya, Volyn, Luhansk, Zhytomyr, Khmelnytskyy, and Chernivtsi oblasts).

The world experience shows that the epidemic of the HIV-infection spreads on a particularly large scale when the virus finds its way to so-called risk groups (homosexuals, drug addicts, and prostitutes). In Ukraine, injecting drug addicts have become such a group.

Cases of HIV-infection among such people have been recorded in Ukraine's 24 administrative territories. In addition to the aforementioned oblasts, their number is also great in Cherkasy and Zhytomyr Oblasts.

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Economic Issues

Ukraine: Premier Bans Use of Budget Funds for Imports

WS1706103296 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0454 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kyiv, June 14 — Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko has banned using budget funds for the purchase of imported goods.

According to a resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers signed by Lazarenko, the funds of state budget as well as non-budget funds allocated for the purchase of goods for state needs should be used to purchase goods exclusively from Ukrainian manufacturers.

However, if some goods "cannot be produced in enterprises of Ukraine," as the document reads, buying imported goods with the state funds will be allowed. The same is also possible when the price of imported products "is significantly lower" than that of Ukrainian-made goods, according to the resolution.

In case of such exceptions, decisions on the purchase of imported goods for state needs will be made by the Prime Minister. The Inter-Ministerial Committee, formed this week to regulate the purchase of goods, will conduct an expert examination of the possible production in Ukraine of such required products as well as a price examination.

If the committee determines the necessity to buy imported goods, it will submit documents of examination to the Prime Minister.

Ivan Bilas, chairman of the Parliament committee to combat organized crime, said that the establishment of the inter- department commission could lead to further government corruption since commission members could be bribed to present needed examination results.

"I don't exclude this possibility. Any commission can be bribed," Bilas said. He assessed the decision of the government as being generally positive, and an effective means of "promoting the development of national business."

Lazarenko has ordered the oblast administrations and Crimean government, as well as the Kiev and Sevastopol city administrations, to ensure that domestic goods are purchased for their regional needs.

The resolution also calls for "rational usage of the budget and non-budget funds which are allocated for the purchase of goods for national and regional needs, as well as the protection of domestic manufacturers."

Ukraine: Lazarenko Calls For Specific Actions To Implement Reforms

LD1406172896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1506 GMT 14 Jun 96

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, June 14 (Interfax-Ukraine) — Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko declared that it is necessary to "go over from general statements and declarations to boosting the implementation of specific reforms".

Addressing students of the Professional Advancement Institute of the Ukrainian State Administration Academy to the President of Ukraine in Kiev on Friday, the Premier emphasized that at present Ukraine needs "reforms at the level of specific commodity producers, a specific restructuring of enterprises". In doing so, he said, it is necessary "to root out the parasitical mentality of our economic executives".

According to the Premier, the Government is planning to switch off the power system all consumers, who have not paid their electricity bills, to press ahead for the elimination of unprofitable mills and factories and introduce a bankruptcy procedure at enterprises.

P. Lazarenko also said that the Government intended to take measures for the protection of domestic commodity producers, in the first place, through a flexible customs policy".

The Ukrainian Premier also spoke out against "unfounded privileges", which rob the national budget of revenues to the tune of around 139,9 trillion karbovanets. Meanwhile, P. Lazarenko emphasized, the Government advocates the preservation of benefits for disabled workers, war veterans and the persons, who took part in the elimination of the Chernobyl accident aftermaths, as well as other categories of citizens, "who are in real need of state support".

Ukraine: Kuchma Says Nonpayment Crisis May End This Year

LD1406172496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1506 GMT 14 Jun 96

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zhytomyr region, June 14 (Interfax-Ukraine) — There is every ground to say that Ukraine will overcome the payment crisis already this year, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said.

Addressing journalists in the course of his working tour of Zhytomyr region Friday, the President named the main cause behind the non-payment crisis. The crisis

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stems from the fact that in Ukraine "control levers have been lost, and opportunity has been provided for everybody to carry on management to his own liking".

Leonid Kuchma underscored inadmissibility of such a situation, and added that "everybody should play by the same rules".

Mutual arrears in Ukraine have reached such a sum, that it "is practically impossible" to find resources to repay the debts, Kuchma said.

The President did not rule out that the Cabinet would request the population to make long-term deposits at savings banks "against guarantees". A system of people's deposits insurance might serve as such guarantees, experts say.

Leonid Kuchma described as "medieval" the fact the most of the Ukrainian enterprises have "gone over to barter operations". Thus, in particular, according to the President, all Ukrainian sugar — a product in demand everywhere — is sold on barter, which does not add to the national budget.

According to an Interfax-Ukraine report, in the course of his tour, the President has visited the paper mill in Malyn and the State Banknote-Printing Factory.

Ukraine: National Currency To Be Introduced This Year

LD1406172396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1506 GMT 14 Jun 96

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, June 14 (Interfax-Ukraine) — Ukraine's national currency — the hryvnia — is to be put into circulation this year, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said in the course of his visit to Malynovske collective farm in Zhytomyr region Friday.

"The monetary reform will be of no confiscatory character." "The hryvnia will be introduced in the way that it does not turn into a sheet of paper," the President told the farmers.

At the same time, L. Kuchma said, addressing newsmen, that the problem of non-payments should be resolved prior to the introduction of the hryvnia.

Presidential adviser Valeriy Lytvytskyy told Interfax-Ukraine that "favorable conditions have currently emerged for a monetary reform", among which he listed stabilization of prices and slowdown in the production decline.

Meanwhile, he said, the problems of budgetary arrears and sources for the stabilization fund have yet to be settled. At the National Bank there are "substantial, yet insufficient assets for the stabilization fund," which Lytvytskyy estimated at nearly $2 million.

At the same time, he underscored, "there are wage bills, which present an inflation potential". If all wage arrears to the tune of 100 trillion karbovanets are repaid, this may "destabilize the price-related situation," the presidential adviser warned.

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Belarus

Belarus: Lukashenka Strengthens Links With Russia on Regional Level

LD1406191696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1611 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [no dateline as received] President Alyaksandr Lukashenka plans to fasten the process of forming closer links between Belarus and Russian regions, Lukashenka said after talks with visiting Governor of Yaroslavl Anatoliy Lisitsa in Minsk on Friday.

The president spoke of conducting an active dialogue with the Russian leader and his government, but also of intensive talks on economic cooperation with Russian regions. He also spoke of having personal rapport with almost 50 percent of Russian governors which, Lukashenka says, will help fill with substance the recent Minsk-Moscow accords on setting up a community of Belarus and Russia.

As an example, he pointed to a cooperation deal that Yaroslavl-based engine makers and Minsk truck manufacturers signed in Minsk on Friday. The president made it clear Russia's Slavneft oil company will also take part in the project.

Belarus: Defense Minister Views Success of Military Reforms

LD1706101296 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0630 GMT 16 Jun 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] This might sound a bit strange, but to join the Belarusian Armed Forces today, even with the rank of private, is not so easy. There are several reasons for this. First, military service here is still considered an honorable occupation. Not every girl wants to date a young man who has not been in the Army. Second, there are special university admission privileges for ex-soldiers. And third, under the new law a soldier must serve in the military unit which is closest to his home. If he demonstrates good discipline, he gets home leave every weekend. [passage omitted]

There are about 70,000 officers and men in the Belarusian Armed Forces. There is a mobile air assault brigade which can be deployed in any corner of the republic in a short time. There are units which, like the armies in some Western countries, are fully manned by servicemen on contract. The competition among volunteers, especially for the units stationed in the countryside, is seven or eight men to one place.

[Begin Belarusian Defense Minister Leonid Maltsev recording] Our attitude to the experience of foreign armies is this: before trying out something new, we first decide whether this will be of any good to us under our own specific conditions. What could be good for one country may not be so good for us. Yes, there are many arguments in favor of manning units on a territorial basis, although there are also some disadvantages. The experience of our transitional period demonstrated that the advantages are much greater. There are many positive aspects here — for example, the discipline. Last year we managed to cut down on crime within the ranks by 28 percent, and in the first five months of this year by a further 25 percent compared with last year. In other words, we have cut it down by more than a half. [end recording]

[Correspondent] Today there are many areas where the Russian and Belarusian troops are working together. Since April, the air defense troops have been on continuous operational duty, jointly guarding our now unified airspace. Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said that from this fall on, the Russian Army will also be moving toward the practice of manning certain units on the territorial principle. This means that a conscript will serve in his homeland.

Belarus: Lukashenka Dismisses Two National Bank Officials

LD1406191996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1611 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [no dateline as received] President Alyaksandr Lukashenka has sacked two deputy heads of the National Bank, Nikolay Kuzmich and Vladimir Zayash, and president of AO Belinvestbank Roman Vnuchko, formerly in charge of the parliamentary planning and budget commission.

The decision follows an inquiry by the president's supervisory department into the activity of a private firm called Piask run by two sons of former NBU [expansion unknown] head Stanislav Bogdankevich, now an opposition leader, a senior administration source told Interfax.

He said it was found that Piask had been using commercial credits in breach of the NBU regulations. The two NBU officials were held responsible for this.

It was also found that the company also received benefits from some high-ranking officials, the source said. At the same time, Piask concealed information about the amount of its nominal capital.

Commission members concluded that the government's monetary commission was also involved in granting benefits to Piask.

Lukashenka has now decided that the company must compensate the damage done to the state. If not,

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Piask's operations will be suspended and its property impounded.

Belarus: Chinese Delegation Visits Brest Oblast

WS1706112396 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A Chinese parliamentary delegation — members of the Commission for Internal and Judicial Affairs of the All-Chinese Assembly of People's Deputies — is currently on a visit to Brest Oblast. Uladzimir Zalamay, chairman of the Brest Oblast Executive Committee, received the guests. The delegation members learned with interest about the structure of local executive authorities in our Republic. The representatives of the Chinese parliament visited the heroic Brest fortress and laid flowers.

Yesterday, the guests became familiar with day-to-day life in a number of farms in Brest Oblast — the Soviet Belarus kolkhoz and the Belavezhski sovkhoz in Kamenetski rayon. They also visited the Belavezhskaya Forest national park.

Moldova

Moldova: Dniester Leader Urges Ethnic Russians To Vote for Yeltsin

AU1406170496 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1950 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol, June 13 (INFOTAG) — The chairman of the Dniester Parliament, Grigore Marakuta, has called the region-residing Russian citizens to vote for Boris Yeltsin at the next Sunday's presidential elections in Russia.

Speaking at the Dniester-deployed Russian military garrison, where one of the polling stations will be opened on 16 June, Marakuta has stated that Yeltsin had been an initiator of many reform processes in the Russian Federation, and only he is capable to ensure a most painless continuation of the processes.

Marakuta has refuted a wide-spread belief that Yeltsin is, allegedly, the most undesirable candidate for Dniester, because his victory may consolidate Chisinau's position at the negotiations with Tiraspol.

"That is not right. It was exactly Boris Yeltsin who resolutely stopped the 1992 bloodshed in the Dniester region, signed the memorable agreement which launched the negotiation process, and has guaranteed peace in the region by sending a peacekeeper contingent here. In case another candidate wins, Russia may revise its external policy, which will inevitable lead to the necessity to restart the negotiation process from anew. The same applies to reforms in Russia. I believe, in the current situation nobody needs to return to initial positions," Marakuta stressed.

He pointed out that the representatives of the Russian Communist, Liberal Democratic, and some other radical left-wing parties, who often come to Tiraspol, only promise a return to the happy past.

Meanwhile, concrete practical help to the region is being rendered only by the current Russian executive power, including President Boris Yeltsin.

For example, Marakuta referred to the supply of Russian petroleum gas to Dniester, despite a region's gas debt worth $230 million, as well as the gratuitous supply of 40,000 metric tons of grain, thank to which the region still has bread to eat.

The parliament chairman expressed hope that about 30 thousand Russian citizens living in the Dniester region will decide to vote for Yeltsin, not for Zyuganov or Lebed, as some opinion polls indicate.

Moldova: Tiraspol Requests Redeployment of Russian 'Buffer' Force

AU1406173196 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2046 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol 13/6/1996 (BASA-press) — Dniester representatives in the Joint Control Commission (JCC) have petitioned Russian President Boris Yeltsin "to revise the unilateral decision of the Russian side to delegate the peacekeeping duties to some units of the Russian prompt-reaction troops group stationed in the Dniester region."

The message, signed by Dniester representatives in the joint peacekeeping command, said these actions "could bring about grave political and military consequences, and the gravest of all is a potential resumption of armed hostilities."

The signers were concerned by the change of Russian peacekeepers' location in the security zone and said the "blue helmets" were removed from the sector in which they acted as a buffer force.

"Like four years ago, on the eve of the Bender tragedy, Moldovan and Dniester military subdivisions found themselves in a head-to-head position," noted the message.

Russian JCC cochairman Vladimir Ustinov told BASA that the Russian peacekeepers changed their location due to the improper conditions they have been offered so far.

According to Ustinov, a peacekeeping platoon will be always on duty in the buffer sectors.

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Russian peacekeeping forces consist of two battalions.

Moldova: Luchinskiy Still Undecided Whether To Run for President

LD1406192596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1611 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [no dateline as received] Moldovan Parliament Chairman Petr Luchinskiy has not yet decided whether he will run for president in 1996.

The elections have been preliminarily scheduled for November 17, but the parliament has not yet finalized the date.

Luchinskiy told Interfax that he will make the decision soon, after he hears from political and social organizations.

Commenting on a recent poll of party of social progress members, 87 percent of whom said they supported his potential candidacy, Luchinskiy said this was normal procedure and should not be blown out of proportion. "Other political forces went through the same process," he said. "This is all under their jurisdiction and is not part of the campaign for nominating a candidate."

Luchinskiy, who was elected to parliament as part of the Agrarian-Democratic Party [ADP], is no longer a member of that party, and has recently told the press that he may run for the presidency either from a coalition of parties or as an independent candidate, observers in Chisinau say.

Meanwhile, the deputy speaker and leader of the ruling Agrarian- Democratic Party Dumitru Motpan told a press conference that "the presidential candidate from the ADP will have to be a member of our party."

Possible candidates will be discussed at the party assembly scheduled for June 29, he said. The discussion will be democratic, he said, but the nominations will proceed on an alternative basis.

As for the possibility of Luchinskiy joining the party on the eve of the assembly and being nominated as their candidate, Motpan said that "you cannot feed a dog before the hunt," meaning that Luchinskiy would not be ADP's candidate.

Motpan said that he offered Luchinskiy membership in the party a year and a half ago, but the latter refused.

Motpan also said that if ADP deputy Maricica Levitskaya insists on her nomination without the confirmation of the party, she will be tossed from the ranks.

ADP will likely nominate current Prime Minister Andrey Sangheli for president, experts say. If Sangheli refuses to run, Motpan may be next in line for the nomination.

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